Right Weight, Right Dose
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore

Program/Project Description.
An important component of medication safety in children is the weight since medications are dosed according to that critical element of information. Patient weights were hard to locate in the electronic documentation system making it difficult for nurses to confirm patient’s weight. This increased the risk for a medication occurrence in a patient population where the margin for error is very small. The goal was to ensure that a correct weight would always be available for dosing the medication and for checking of the dose by pharmacy and nursing. Success would be evaluated by a decrease in medication errors related to incorrect weight.

Process.
A flow diagram was developed that outlined the steps of locating the weight in the electronic documentation system. This process highlighted where areas of breakdown could occur and also demonstrated how complex finding the weight was. A suggestion was proposed to the Information Systems Department to show the weight in the yellow banner bar which contains other patient demographic information. This is present when the patient’s chart is first opened and is very visible.

Solution.
A suggestion was proposed to the Information Systems Department to show the weight in the yellow banner bar which contains other patient demographic information. This is present when the patient’s chart is first opened and is very visible. Electronic education regarding this change went out to all staff and a go live date was chosen for implementation.

Measurable Outcomes.
Medication errors related to incorrect weights have decreased to 0.

Sustainability.
This change was applied to the entire institution and will continue by ongoing use.

Role of Collaboration and Leadership.
Direct care nurses took this issue to the Clinical Leader. They pointed out the difficulty of verifying the weight, which could lead to a medication error. The Clinical Leader reviewed the electronic documentation and involved the Advanced Practice Nurse, who presented the issue Information Systems. Information systems researched a method to make weight more visible and implemented it throughout the institution.

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