Implementing the NEECHAM Confusion Scale and Delirium Protocol for Hospitalized Patients

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Learning Objectives

- The learner will...
 - describe how the NEECHAM confusion scale was implemented at Salem Hospital
 - state one patient outcome of the delirium protocol and NEECHAM scale implementation at Salem Hospital



Case Study

- Mr. Hunt, 78 years old- 2 days post hip fracture repair
- Sleeps frequently and has difficulty maintaining attention
- Speech at times is incoherent and increasingly agitated
- Has removed IV site twice

What is happening with this patient?

Delirium





What is Delirium?

An acute decline in attention and cognition, often fluctuating in course with disorganized thinking and/ or altered level of consciousness present





Importance of Delirium Education

Caring for a patient with delirium begins with early identification of the signs and symptoms and implementing interventions

14-56% of hospitalized elders experience delirium

Delirium is a common syndrome in the ICU with incidences ranging from 11-87% and 1/3 of these cases goes unrecognized



Consequences of Delirium & Surgery

Elderly + Postoperative + Delirium =

Prolonged length of stay
Increased risk of complications
Increased costs
Risk of long-term disability



Salem Health Delirium Task Force

- Identified need to increase staff knowledge of signs and symptoms, prevention, and management of delirium
- Interdisciplinary workgroup members
 - Nursing
 - Pharmacy
 - Physicians
 - Dietetics
 - Clinical Education
 - Patient Education
 - Clinical Informatics



Task Force's Purpose

 To adopt a protocol and the NEECHAM Confusion scale for the non-intubated patient across care units on the hospital campus addressing barriers such as knowledge attitudes and/or behaviors



Methods

- Chose an assessment tool- NEECHAM
- Developed of a delirium protocol
- Designed computer-based learning modules for RNs & CNAs
- Created a physician order set
- Worked with EPIC experts to create:
 - Delirium Risk Assessment (NEECHAM)
 - RN Best Practice Alert
 - MD Best Practice Alert





Trial Implementation- Orthopedic Unit

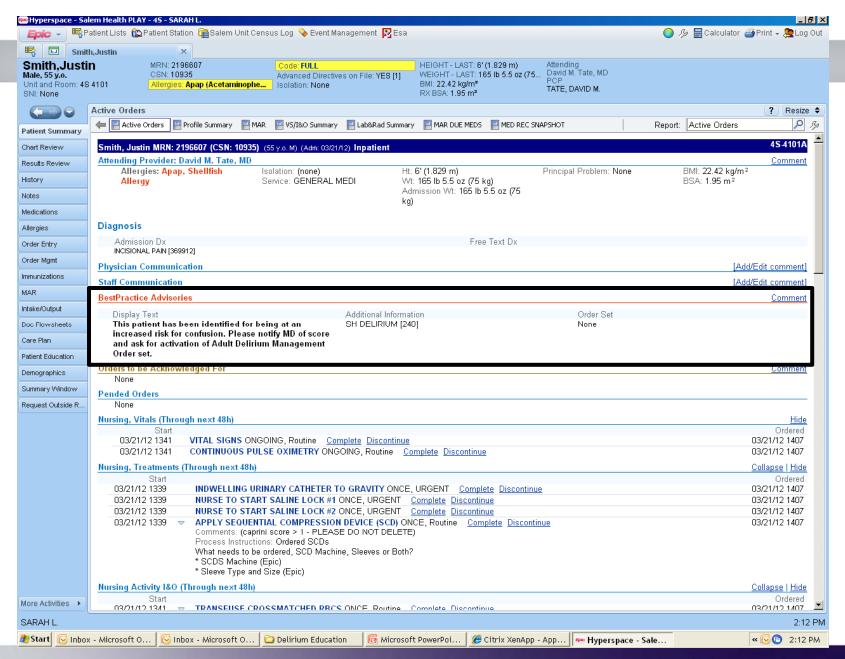
- Orthopedics chosen as pilot unit
- Staff meetings to educate RNs and CNAs
 - Conducted by Orthopedic RN
- Select physician's patients chosen for pilot
- Paper documentation
- Successful trial

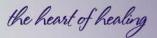


Full Scale Launch

- Computer based training modules for RNs and CNAs
- Staff meetings
- Communication flyers to physicians
- Order set implementation
- Best Practice Alert









Job aids

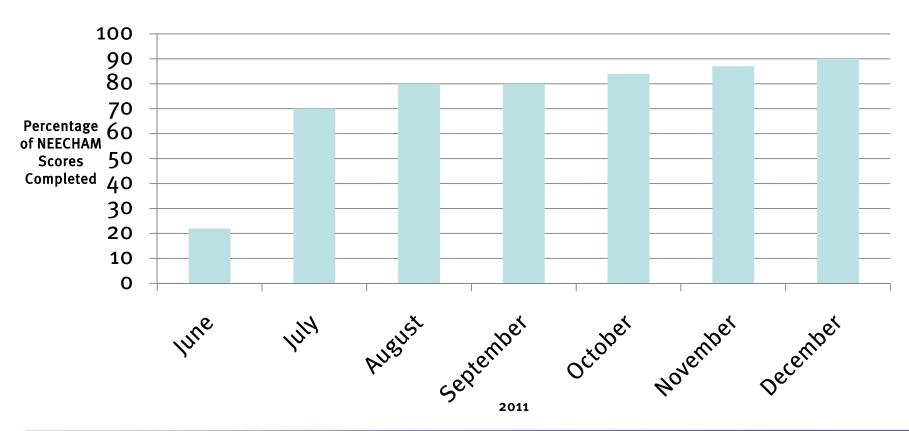
- Posters
- Reminders on computer screens

"Have you completed your NEECHAM scale today?"



Outcomes

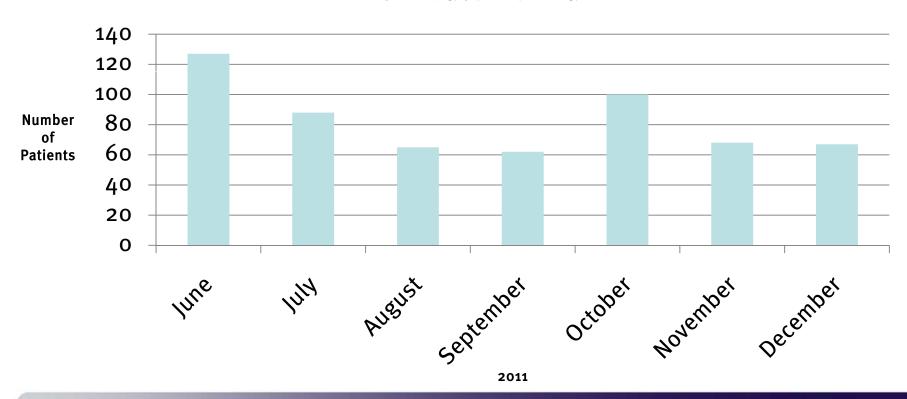
Increase in documented NEECHAM scores





Outcomes

Number of Patients Discharged with ICD 9 Code of Acute Delirium





Outcomes

- Patient & family educational handouts produced and placed in KRAMES- On- Demand
- Lorazepam usage decreased in patients 65 years of age by
 148 doses from the same time frame the previous year



Conclusion

 Adoption of an evidence- based practice protocol is possible as interdisciplinary groups address and overcome barriers



References

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Thank you!

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