Pacemaker Follow-up Done in Nursing and Special Care Homes

Kathy Kowalski

Director of Electrodiagnostics and Respiratory Therapy

Horizon Health Network
• When: Initial project began in August 2015

• Who: Nursing and Special Care Home Residents

• Why: Delays in transfer (risk), Residents/ Family refusal to attend pacemaker follow-up due to obstacles (mobility, confusion, etc.)
The Goal of the Project or Strategy

• To maximize the number of residents receiving pacemaker follow-up services
• To reduce associated risks for residents requiring travel for pacemaker follow-up
• To improve services to this vulnerable population and care providers
# Measures

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total # of patients in data base</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>80</td>
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<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td># patients seen</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>105</td>
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<tr>
<td># patients refused follow-up</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td># of Nursing/Special Care Homes visited</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of day trips made by RCT</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>cost for RCT</td>
<td>$160</td>
<td>$255</td>
<td>&lt; $3800</td>
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<td>$415</td>
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<td>Potential savings (Due to no Ambulance NB transfer)</td>
<td>$97,716</td>
<td>$103,464</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<td>$201,180</td>
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<td># calls made to Cardiologist by RCT</td>
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</table>
• Strong physician support at the local level and at Medical Advisory Committee

• Physician billing code for review has been a challenge, currently limited to salaried physicians, working with Medical Society advocating for a remote monitoring billing code
Tips & Tools for Others

• Have a Cardiologist available for trouble shooting

• No additional staffing resources or shifts required (Registered Cardiology Technologist already scheduled to work)

• Organize follow-up 1 week in the Fall and 1 week in late Spring:
  • to avoid winter conditions and summer vacations
  • limits number of trips and time away from hospital
Name: Kathy Kowalski

Organization: Horizon Health Network

Email: Kathy.Kowalski@HorizonNB.ca

Phone Number: 506-447-4070