Implementing a Medication Pass Supplement Workflow: A Multidisciplinary Approach

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BACKGROUND

- Evidence demonstrates a link between malnutrition and lengthened hospital stay, morbidity and mortality.
- Nurses noted that nutritional supplements distributed at mealtimes were often found at the bedside unconsumed.
- Nurses in an academic, Magnet® hospital piloted an evidenced-based practice project (EBPP) designed to facilitate optimal nutritional status in the inpatient population.

PURPOSE

 Explore if offering oral supplements during medication pass would increase patient compliance and contribute to improved nutritional outcomes.

GOALS

- Create an improved process for tracking patient consumption of nutritional supplements
- Develop and implement a clinical workflow to facilitate:
- Clinical decision-making
- Nutritional supplement orders
- Patient documentation

METHODS



- Determine project goals
- Develop a project plan
- Select pilot units
- Define a timeline to full implementation



- Identify interdisciplinary team members
- Determine data variables
- Build and test changes to the orders and documentation
- Create education for inpatient nurses and dietitians
- Initiate new workflow on 5 med-surg pilot units Sept.—Oct., 2017
- Begin full project implementation Dec., 2017



- Evaluate postimplementation data
- Refine workflow
- Measure outcomes

MEASURING SUCCESS

- Pre-implementation data (Aug. 2017) revealed 393 supplements were ordered per day and less than 1% of the supplements were given.
- Post-implementation data (Feb.–April, 2018) identified an increase in supplements ordered (1,728/day) and there was a 30% increase in consumption of the supplements.

KEY TAKE AWAYS

- Maintain a clear project vision
- Assemble a multidisciplinary team
- Attend to project timelines
- Serve as a bridge between clinical practice and EHR process development

REFERENCES

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