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

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

IMPLEMENT
• 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
• Evaluate post-implementation data
• Revise 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