Development of Hospital-Wide Policy for Pediatric Needle Procedures at an Academic Medical Center

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Background: Needle procedures are traumatic experiences for pediatric patients, and have been linked to formation of phobias and lifelong decreased healthcare utilization (Nixon et al., 2010; Noel et al., 2009). Pain management during needle procedures and hospital wide standardization of needle procedures are known to increase patient satisfaction, while decreasing long-term adverse outcomes related to seeking health care (Rosenberg et al., 2016, Friedrichsdorf et al., 2018).

Purpose: The purpose of this project was to develop a hospital-wide standardized policy for pediatric needle procedures at an academic medical center.

Methods:
1. Those performing pediatric needle procedures were electronically surveyed to identify full spectrum issues regarding adoption of a pediatric needle policy.
2. Based on survey findings and current evidenced based practices, a new policy for pain reduction strategies in pediatric needle procedures was developed.
3. The policy was re-evaluated and refined based on feedback obtained via a follow-up survey regarding the drafted policy.

Results:
• 186 surveys distributed, with 40 returned yielding a response rate of 21%
• 35% of stakeholders reported having specific training for pediatric needle procedures, while 60% reported having training only during orientation or not at all.
• Of those surveyed, many were already implementing pain interventions during needle procedures. Most often by use of distraction (78%) and topical analgesia (65%).
• Common reported barriers were emotional patient and family response (32.5%), time constraints (22.5%), poor staff education (17.5%), and lack of access to resources (15%).
• 35% of stakeholders reported they did not have access to the basic resources they need to provide pain management during needle procedures.

Conclusion: Employees endorse a standardized policy for pediatric needle procedures, and key personnel have shown their support for its adoption. Therefore, in order to decrease the likelihood of childhood trauma and increase healthcare utilization in adulthood, the academic medical center will adopt this project’s developed policy.

References