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Improving Emergency Department Belongings Inventory Electronic Medical Record Documentation

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Background

- Electronic Medical Record (EMR) education and training for RNs should be multifaceted and targeted to the RN clinical workflow.
- Input from direct care RNs is essential to ensure EMR education is relevant and effective.
- Hospital policy requires belongings inventory EMR documentation for all admitted patients.
- An audit of charts for ED admissions over three months revealed only 5% compliance with this policy.

Purpose

- Increase the rate of belongings inventory EMR documentation for all ED admissions to greater than 75% over a one-month period.

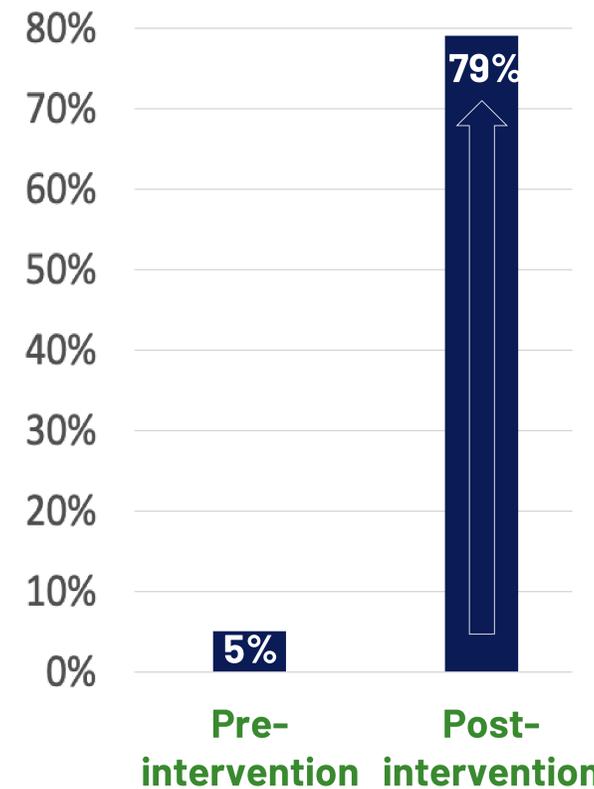
Methods

- As part of a quality improvement project, Shared Governance asked a group of ED RNs and technicians to analyze EMR belongings documentation rates and explore how the department could better align with hospital policy.
- Shared Governance developed a 1-page education sheet, had staff add "Patient Belongings" to "Favorites" in the EMR, and posted computer tag reminders.
- ED RNs and technicians completed education during March 2023.
- The following month, all ED admission charts (n=345) were audited for four consecutive weeks and progress reports were posted weekly in the staff lounge.

Results

- Belongings inventory EMR documentation increased in the ED from 5% to 79% post-intervention.

Belongings Inventory Documentation in ED - % of Admissions



Discussion

- Multifaceted intervention increased compliance with a policy requiring EMR documentation in the ED.
- Staff input led to the development of targeted education.
- Further research is needed to determine the impact of belongings inventory on patient and staff safety.

Implications for Practice

- Include belongings inventory documentation in orientation for future RNs and technicians.
- Develop and implement targeted belongings education on inpatient units.
- Regular chart audits will determine compliance rates.