Implementation of multidisciplinary ward safety huddles on a UK general paediatric ward
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Aim to Improve Situational Awareness on Ward 6N Royal Free

- 6N is the general paediatric ward for a north London teaching hospital serving a diverse population (approx 1000 admissions/yr). Includes an intensive eating disorders service and multiple surgical specialties
- selected as a pilot site for the National S.A.F.E (Situational Awareness for Everyone) Health Foundation/RCPCH programme in September 2014
- multidisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, play specialists, physician’s assistants, managers and parents of children admitted to the ward have led this work.

Entire multidisciplinary Team focusing on SAFETY for 5mins

Huddle Algorithm

If Yes to any Q then patient flagged as a “Watcher”

• Model for Improvement approach with PDSA cycles to test and refine algorithm, adapted from Brady et al* and nurse in charge documentation form to record info
• 6N Ward safety huddles occurring 100% of the time at 0930 since October 2014. Night shift huddles now also 100% of the time since January 2015

Engaging all ward staff

- “Huddling for Monty” acronym inspired by TV Christmas advert- ID card reminders produced
- Trainee champions for safety huddles and RECALL (Rapid Evaluation of Cardiorespiratory Arrests with Lessons for Learning) tool— Learning from deterioration, link to risk newsletter produced by junior doctors

Benefits of ward Huddles

- Huddle process encourages flattening of hierarchy, with respect for views of all members of the MDT
- Empowers staff, however junior, to raise safety concerns and improves communication
- Benefits exceed those expected: staff introductions at start of huddle mean team members getting to know each other

- Introduction of DAILY PLAN WHITEBOARDS, SAFETY CHECKLISTS FOR PARENTS & SAFETY NOTICEBOARD by the Royal Free SAFE team:

Spread to Galaxy Ward, Barnet Hospital

- Galaxy ward morning huddles implemented 2016
- “Monty the alien” adopted to highlight “watchers” on bed board
- Interest from Trust exec to implement across adult areas
- Multidisciplinary team formed to adapt huddle for our neonatal units

Acknowledgements and contact details

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