Safety Huddles by Anna McGill
Advanced Respiratory Peadiatric Physiotherapist
January 2018
A Physiotherapist View of Safety Huddles

Positives

- Allows us to pick up referrals we may miss and is an effective way to screen a ward quickly
- Allows us to raise concerns about any child on the ward, provide an on call handover and share information
- Highlight if there is a need to escalate or transfer to place of safety to allow safe treatment
- Prepares for discharge and highlight if unsafe for discharge before ward rounds i.e. mobility
- Keeps an extra eye on children who are triggering pews
- Know which direction to run in when the emergency buzzer sounds
- More involved in ward especially junior rotational staff
Positives

• Makes the ward a safer place
• Can speed up patient throughput early discharge
• Time limited
• Allows us to prioritize patients
• Makes physio's feel empowered
• Awareness of safeguarding matters, who we can let in to the ward example of ward scenario
• Dynamic awareness of safety wider than our team i.e. if staff shortages
• We can provide update on respiratory or mobility status
Negatives

• Time consuming
• Lead by medics/ nursing
• Becomes repeat of medical handover
• Structure may need adapting
Practical problems and real life

- Physios cover multiple wards therefore timing is essential if we are to attend all the wards safety huddles, we cover 7 wards.
- On PICU safety huddles are used more as a medical/nurse handover and can last over an hour due to clinical caseload this can't happen.
- Sometimes not invited to huddle if just happens spontaneously.
- We need to structure the huddles to happen at slightly different times across the hospital if these are to work.
- Huddle observational tool didn't work for our trust so we made our own huddle reflection tool on ward 6.
Final good point

• Since the introduction of safety huddles on ward 10 there has been a drastic reduction in unplanned admissions to PICU

• Therefore the evidence may be correct that safety huddles can reduce the number of calls