Positive Approaches in Quality Improvement to Increase Weighing Rates on PICU

Victoria Barriga-Atkins[1], Alison Jones[1], Maria Fitzpatrick[2], Carolyn Patchell[3], Samantha Armstrong[3], Katie Norris[1], Susan Longman[1], and Jeff Martin[1] (1. BCH PICU, 2. University of Birmingham, 3. BCH Dietetics)

Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust

learning from excellence

Introduction

Weighing patients in PICU can be challenging[1]. Safety reviews highlighted that patient weighing was inconsistent posing a risk to adequate nutritional support in our 31-bed PICU.

Positive approaches[2] are engaging for staff leading to greater team involvement and potential for successful improvement.

Aims

1. To understand the conditions that help staff to regularly weigh patients.
2. To increase the proportion of weighs being done.

'What are the conditions and behaviours that help you to weigh your patients?'

Methods

Retrospective review of 30 patient records (paper based). Screened for:

- Weighing frequency
- Documentation
- Patients selected as 'too unstable to weigh'

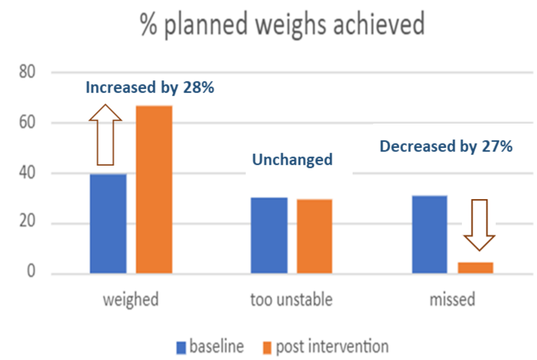
12 months post intervention, repeat notes review (n=30)

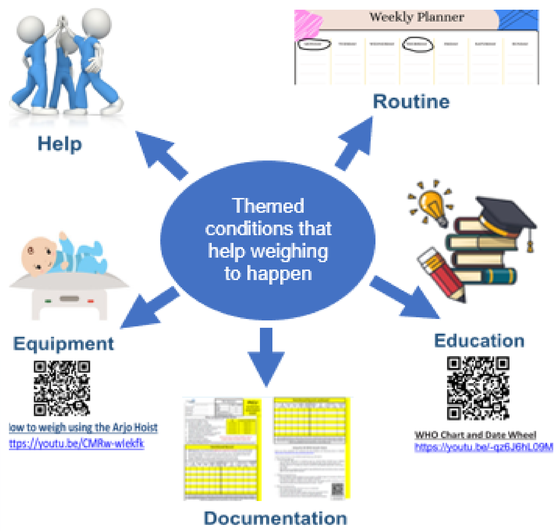
Appreciative Inquiry questionnaires offered to staff and thematically analysed to establish weighing facilitators and to generate improvement ideas.

QI package delivered over 12 months including:

- Team engagement activities
- Championing weigh days (Mon and Thurs)
- QR coded training videos attached to equipment
- Education & training bedside & study days
- Documentation fit for purpose

Results





Conclusions and Discussion

Positive approaches to improvement are engaging for staff and drive 'work as done' improvement design for the team by the team. Resource allocation, routine, equipment, education, training and documentation are all crucial to ensure patients are weighed consistently.

Future work should be done to create a strategy for the ~33% of patients 'too unstable to be weighed' including adequate dietetic resource and robust referral mechanisms to safeguard all patients' nutritional needs

References

1 Mehta N.M. 2015 Bringing back the (Weighing) Balance in the PICU – for Good Measure. *Pediatric Critical Care Medicine* 16(3):301-302

2 A. Plunkett and E. Plunkett Positive approaches to safety: Learning from what we do well - PubMed (nih.gov)

By your side