

A MULTIMODAL/MULTIDISCIPLINARY EDUCATIONAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO IDENTIFY AND MANAGE DELIRIUM ON AN INPATIENT UNIT

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INTRODUCTION

Delirium is a frequent psychiatric complication to cancer, but rarely recognized by oncologists. Delirium is an under-recognized neuropsychiatric condition associated with increased morbidity and mortality, length of hospitalization, higher health care costs and significant distress. Based on historical data, the rates of delirium on Cleveland Clinic's inpatient oncology units were significantly lower than would be expected.

OBJECTIVES

Identify patient's non-modifiable risk factors and modifiable clinical and environmental aspects to reduce the occurrence and severity of delirium were targeted. This approach included psycho-oncology providers in multidisciplinary rounds, presentations at staff meetings and engagement of the Clinical Documentation Improvement department for documentation education.

METHODS

A multi-modal educational plan was implemented targeting a range of caregivers, including physicians, nurses, and advanced practice providers. The education included proper screening and identification of delirium through use of the Brief Confusion Assessment Method (bCAM), utilization of a delirium order set, and appropriate documentation of delirium and its associated management.

RESULTS

During the first three months improvements were noted. Patients identified as positive for delirium through bCAM screening increased from 3.5% to 12.7%, and utilization of the delirium order set for delirium-positive patients increased from 5.7% to 23.9%. Additionally, the average nursing unit length of stay (LOS) for delirium-positive patients decreased by more than 2 days compared to baseline ($p=0.29$).

CONCLUSION

A multimodal / multidisciplinary approach incorporating education, communication, and documentation has rapidly improved delirium identification and management for oncology inpatients. This initiative resulted in a reduction in LOS and provided cost savings opportunities through earlier identification and management of delirium.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES (at least 1):

The participant shall be able to identify at least two effective educational methods for improving the identification and management of oncology patients experiencing delirium.

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