In Patients with Telemetry Monitoring, will Educational Sessions with Registered Nurses Reduce the Incidence of the Patient Disconnecting Themselves from the Monitoring Unit?

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**Background**

- Close telemetry monitoring in the acute care patient enables monitor techs and nursing staff to identify and detect any changes in cardiac functioning.
- By educating employees and improving compliance with remaining connected to the monitors, we can improve patient safety and outcomes.

**Practice Change**

Assess whether floor RNs and patients are aware of their individual indications for telemetry monitoring on Grant 6 West: observe for improved compliance with education on the importance on continuous telemetry monitoring.

**Methods**

- Pre-Telemetry Monitoring Observational Survey.
- Present/discuss information to staff; informational/educational materials
- Post Telemetry Monitoring Observational Survey.

**Methods and Measurements**

**Telemetry Education Tool**

**Indications for Telemetry Monitoring**

- Pacemaker/ICD placement
- Acute heart failure
- Syncopeal episodes
- Post surgery for high risk procedures
- New onset arrhythmias
- Hyperkalemia/hypermagnesemia
- GI bleed
- Acute neurologic event
- Post acute MI
- Initiation of certain medications

**Pre-Telemetry Monitoring Survey Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you educate your patient on their specific need for telemetry monitoring?</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you as the nurse unhook the patient from the telemetry monitor to do simple tasks like use the restroom or during ADL care?</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would a pocket telemetry monitors be easier for the patient and nursing staff as it would not require the patient to be unhooked for care throughout the day?</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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</tbody>
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**Summary/Discussion**

By using the findings of this project to reduce the number of telemetry disconnections we found that:

- Consistency is needed with Nurses/Techs allowing patient to unhook, there should be no exceptions.
- Patients need to be educated on the importance of telemetry monitoring.
- Lines need to be organized to prevent hazard.
- Increase the frequency of rounding on patients with telemetry.

Feedback from the Staff RN’s:

“The educational handout was a great reminder of the indications for telemetry monitoring.”

**Conclusion**

- Education sessions with Registered Nurses and patients reduced the incidence of patients disconnecting themselves from telemetry monitoring as evidenced by fewer calls from P6 telemetry monitoring room.
- Although compliance improved, wireless telemetry monitoring would promote safety and compliance by decreasing the number of times the patient is disconnected from telemetry monitoring.

**References**


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