

In Cardiac Patients, What is the Effect of Accurate I & O Documentation on Fluid Balance and Medication Administration Compared with Current Documentation Standards?

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Background

- Intake and output (I&O) measurement is the cornerstone assessment of fluid balance in cardiac patients
- Accurate documentation of these numbers are an important determination of treatment and length of stay
- Often measurements are inaccurate due to discrepancies between methods of recording

Measures and Results

Fluid Restriction: _____

DAY	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
INTAKE												
OUTPUT												

NIGHT	19	20	21	22	23	00	01	02	03	04	05	06
INTAKE												
OUTPUT												

Yesterday's weight (kg): _____ Today's weight (kg): _____

Results N=16

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Accurate intake and output measurement is important	0%	6%	12.5%	0%	81.25%
Staff is compliant with I&O documentation.	6%	31.25%	43.75%	18.75%	0%
I am aware of how much fluid is in each cup size.	6%	6%	18.75%	31.25%	37.5%
I find it easy to connect with nursing techs about patient orders.	6%	18.75%	25%	37.5%	12.5%
I feel that an I&O chart would be effective in a patient's room.	12.5%	0%	6%	25%	56.25%
Intake and output documentation is easy.	6%	6%	31.25%	31.25%	25%

Post-Survey

	Strongly Agree
This tool was easy to use.	100%
The use of this tool will increase compliance with I&O.	31.25%
Incorporating this tool into my daily routine was easy.	81.25%
This tool positively benefits the accuracy of fluid balance in heart failure patients.	100%

Summary/Discussion

- The results supported that the majority of nurses (81.25%) strongly agree that accurate I & O measurement is important
- Compliance with documentation is an area that will benefit from an increase in education and diligent practice
- Ease of use did not seem to be a negative factor when utilizing the I & O tool
 - 56.25% of those who were surveyed stated that they believed the use of this tool would be effective in the patient room.

Practice Change

A tool was developed and used to collect I & O data. The tool was compared to the current method of collecting I & O

Methods

- Pre-surveys were distributed to RNs
- I & O tool placed at bedside for utilization
- Post-surveys distributed after 3 weeks of tool implementation

Conclusion

- The majority of the nurses agree that it is important for physicians to have accurate fluid balance data on cardiac patients
- This data dictates how physicians adjust medication dosages, such as diuretics in conjunction with fluid restriction
- Education is needed to encourage participation and increase compliance
- Documentation fatigue is a factor when considering compliance percentage on the post survey

References