Encouraging Mask Wearing Compliance During COVID

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Next Steps:
- Implement the distribution of mask education and visual aids hospital-wide
- Follow and track patients who have contracted COVID-19 whilst being an inpatient to determine if mask compliance was followed appropriately
- Add assessment to hourly rounding to include if patient was wearing mask per policy

Barriers of this Study:
- Patient population diversity provided a challenge to get accurate data. (i.e., confused, inconsistent patients)
- Unit restructuring during COVID-19 pandemic.

Our proposed interventions of mask education and poster placement produced an 11% increase in mask-wearing compliance among inpatients on Grant 6.

The largest barriers to survey was unit restrictions and restructuring due to COVID-19 outbreaks.

Despite the pandemic-related barriers, our project demonstrates that patient and staff education and signage does have a positive effect on mask wearing compliance, thereby improving overall safety for patients and staff.

Background
- Surgical mask use serves as an effective barrier against the spread of respiratory diseases
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for masking was amplified in the healthcare setting
- Patients at EMMC are required to wear masks while inpatient unless sleeping or able to socially distance appropriately
- There was low compliance amongst patients

We proposed that patients receiving verbal and signage messaging focused on mask-wearing would increase mask-wearing

Methods
- Pre-intervention mask compliance data was collected by an observational audit on Grant 6. Data collected from this unit is congregated into one table
- Posters were placed in high visibility areas and in each patient room. Staff were educated on encouraging face mask use during staff meetings
- One month later, mask-wearing compliance was assessed again with another audit
- Data was displayed in graphs and findings analyzed

Measures and Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Audit</th>
<th>Second Audit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mask wearing compliance pre-intervention</td>
<td>Mask wearing compliance post-intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compliant</td>
<td>Non-Compliant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.6%</td>
<td>70.4%</td>
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</tbody>
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The following poster was displayed in each patient’s room on Grant 6 after the first audit was obtained. The second audit was completed 28 days after the poster was displayed in the rooms for the patients to visualize.

Keep your mask on unless you are actively eating or drinking

- Keep your mask on when entering or leaving the hospital
- Keep your mask on when around others
- Keep your mask on when eating or drinking

Conclusion

The following poster was displayed in each patient’s room on Grant 6 after the first audit was obtained. The second audit was completed 28 days after the poster was displayed in the rooms for the patients to visualize.

Even when you are in a room by yourself, you are exhaling droplets that can settle on surfaces. For your safety, the safety of visitors, and the safety of our staff, please always keep your mask on unless asked to remove it.

References