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Description

- An opportunity for improvement in resuscitation performance was identified with time to defibrillation for a patient with a shockable rhythm (goal is defibrillation within 2 minutes)
- This trend was noted within 6 months of deployment of a new code cart defibrillator
- A needs assessment indicated that nurses on medical-surgical units were least familiar and confident with the overall operations of a new code cart defibrillator



Purpose

- The purpose of this project was:
- 1.) Improve performance in time to defibrillation, for patients in cardiopulmonary arrest with a shockable rhythm
 - 2.) Increase confidence in medical-surgical nurses in utilizing code cart defibrillator

Methods

- Frequent (weekly for 1 hour) hands-on simulation practice on random medical-surgical units
- Day shift and night shift (alternating each week)
- Equipment is on a rolling cart, moving from one area to the next



Evaluation and Outcomes

Prior to the initiation of the project, time to defibrillation was not meeting goal. After implementation, time to defibrillation of 2 minutes or less (mean) was achieved and sustained for the following 2 quarters.

Nine months after the initiation of weekly defibrillator rounding, a survey was done

- 71% reported participating in defibrillator rounds
- 100% reported feeling confident in applying the pads and turning on the defibrillator
- 97% felt confident in following verbal cues
- 92% felt confident in pressing “analyze”
- 84% of participants reported feeling confident in responding to an actual code

Implications

Maintaining positive patient outcomes requires frequent reassessment of staff’s education and competency needs