Ensuring Safe Transitions for the Discharged Pediatric ED Asthma Patient

Katie Toomey, RN, CPEN, Diana Volpe RN, BSN, Cathy Parron, MD, Caitlin Farrell, MD, Fran Damian, RN, MS, NEA-BC, Joanne Haley, RN, CPEN, Sabina Bien-Aime, RN, MHA, Daphne Aldaon, RN, BSN, Suzanne Niro, RN, BSN, Annie Seneski, BS, Ozge Yetistrikci, PhD

Purpose and Goals:
- The goal of this quality improvement (QI) initiative is to ensure safe transitions of care by empowering families with excellent discharge teaching consistently performed by a nurse.

Background/Significance:
- **Emergency Nurses Association** “Discharge planning is an essential, complex element of quality patient care and the most patient-centered functions that emergency departments (ED) provide”
- **ED Centralized Nurse-led follow-up program** created to:
  - Reinforce patient education
  - Improve ED to medical home communication
  - Decreases return visits
- **Post Discharge Follow-up Calls** revealed caregivers of patients with an asthma flare or 1st time wheezing have:
  - Gaps in comprehension of disease process
  - Home care instructions and follow-up
  - Inability to access prescribed medication
- **Suboptimal Discharge Process:** Final review of discharge readiness falls mainly on MD’s with varying levels of teaching experience

STOP

5 Things to Know Before You Go

1) What is my child’s diagnosis?
2) Are there medications I should give my child?
3) When do I follow up with my child’s doctor?
4) How do I know if my child needs to be seen again?
5) Do I have any further questions?

(Adapted from Methodist Health System)

Findings:
- Adherence to Discharge Safety Checklist and RN/MD huddles exceeded targeted goals > 90%
- Families who reported receiving nurse discharge teaching increased from 31% to 64% (13% unsure)
- Unintended benefits: 59% to 68% improvement in documentation of Vital Signs within 1 hour of discharge
- Length of stay did not increase

Implications/Next Steps:
- Findings suggest that reviewing the ED Discharge Checklist and “5 Things to Know Before you Go” during a brief RN/MD huddle is feasible, sustainable, and successful in increasing nursing participation.
- The next PDCA cycle will expand these strategies to all discharged ED patients to ensure safe transition of care for every population.

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ED DISCHARGE CHECKLIST

**MD TO-DO**
- Summarize visit and review discharge plan with patient/family
- Write prescriptions (review with pharmacist)
- Print discharge instructions
- Call PCP for follow-up (NFA)
- MD signature

**MD+RN Huddle**
- Check for outstanding orders/meds/missed labs
- Check that patient name matches printed instructions and prescriptions
- Hand-off discharge papers and Golden Ticket from MD to RN
- RN signature

**RN TO-DO**
- Remove all medical equipment, IV, member leads, stickers
- Ask family if they have the information needed to take care of their child at home
- Review medication administration (if necessary)
- Answer any questions they have questions
- Give patient/family discharge papers and Golden Ticket
- RN signature

GOLDEN TICKET TO GO!

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Which health care provider was involved in discharge teaching/verbal instructions?