A Multi-cycle Quality Improvement Project to Assess and Improve the Quality of DNACPR Documentation

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Introduction:

DNACPR documentation is an important component of clinical practice and guides decision making in the event of a cardiac arrest. A thorough documentation reflects the rationale behind the decision and states whether patient and family are aware and in agreement. Incomplete documentation fails to justify the DNACPR decision and demonstrate effective communication. [1,2,3]

Objective:

To increase compliance with the completion of DNACPR documentation ensuring that each form achieves a high standard of completion – defined as at least 80% of the form being completed.

Methods:

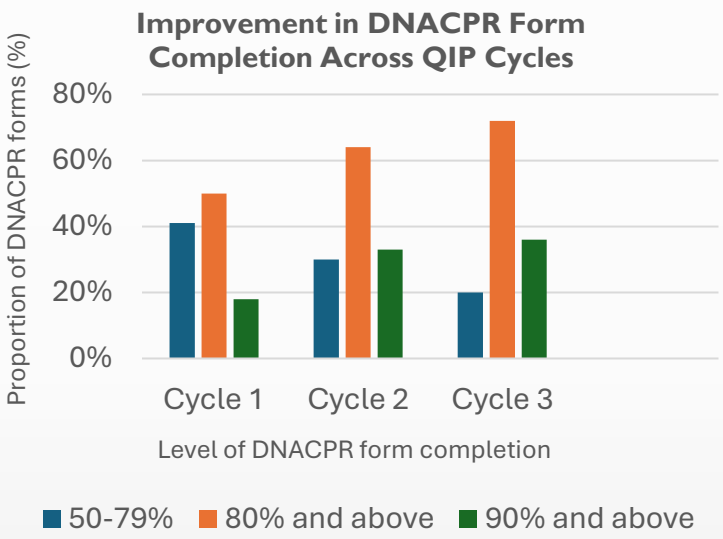
A Plan-Do-Study- Act (PDSA) methodology was employed. Baseline data was collected retrospectively from clinical records. Following data analysis, change strategies were implemented, and data was collected in two subsequent cycles to assess improvement and sustainability.

Change Ideas and Implementation:

- A presentation was delivered in the departmental meeting to raise awareness on the significance of completion of DNACPR documentation in line with General Medical Council (GMC) and Resuscitation Council UK (RCUK) guidelines.
- The role of DNACPR forms in guiding clinicians to take, communicate and document DNACPR decisions appropriately was emphasised. Attendees were handed over forms, and each section was discussed to promote understanding on effective completion.
- Analysis of the baseline data was shared highlighting gaps in documentation.
- Posters were displayed across the department to reinforce good practice.

Results:

The interventions led to a sustained improvement in the quality of DNACPR documentation. By the third cycle of data collection the percentage of forms with at least 80% completion increased from 50% to 72%. Additionally, a higher standard of 90% completion increased from 18% to 36%.



Conclusion:

The project demonstrates the effectiveness of targeted education and visual reminders in improving clinical documentation and practices. Quality Improvement is an ongoing process. It is important to identify areas that need improvement and take initiative to promote positive changes. Educating health care professionals and raising awareness about the problems and possible solutions is crucial to Quality Improvement Projects in a health care setting. Posters are a useful tool for the same.

References:

1. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).General Medical Council.
2. Decisions relating to cardiopulmonary resuscitation. British Medical Association, Resuscitation Council UK, Royal College of Nursing. 3rd ed. (1st revision). 2016.
3. Fritz Z, Fuld J. Ethical issues surrounding do not attempt resuscitation orders: decisions, discussions