

Project TICKER



Teamwork to Improve Cardiac Kids' End Results

March 2013

Clinical Pathway Implementation Continues

More than 39 patients have been treated using TICKER pathways, and we continue to see a trend of improvement in length of stay (LOS).

- Ventricular septal defect patients have gone from median LOS of 5 days to 4 days (n=16).
- Tetralogy of Fallot patients have gone from median LOS of 9 days to 5 days (n=7).
- Pathways have also been used for patients with atrial septal defect (n=10) and short stay (n=6), defined as expected LOS of fewer than 5 days.

We still have room for improvement with compliance of using the pathway each day throughout the patient's stay. Since October 2012, 6 of the 15 pathways were fully completed (documentation in the packet each day in the PICU and CICC).

The next clinical pathway in development is for patients undergoing a Norwood procedure.

Congratulations on success!

Thank you to the many people who have worked hard to improve care for patients with congenital heart disease! You are all owners throughout the pathways, and we need your support to continuously improve care within the units as well as transitions and handoffs between the units.



Project TICKER is featured in this month's edition of the American Academy of Pediatrics *Quality Connections* with an article written by TICKER investigators, Drs. Tina Schade Willis, Scott Buck and Michael Mill.

["Breaking Down the Walls of Inpatient Silos: Experience at University of North Carolina Hospitals—Chapel Hill"](#)

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