

AOE 2013 - 2014 Grant Recipient

“Teaching a Standardized Method of Handoffs to Medical Students”

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Abstract

Handoffs in medicine have received widespread attention in recent years as changes in work hours for residents have increased the number of transitions of care for patients. The Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare estimates that 80% of serious medical errors occur in the miscommunication between providers when the care of a patient is transferred. These concerns have led the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to hold residency programs accountable for ensure the competency of their residents in managing effective structured handoffs that promote patient safety and facilitate continuity of care. However, the skill of providing handoffs is not routinely taught in medical school. A consistent and standardized method for conducting verbal and written patient handoffs known as IPASS (illness severity-patient summary—action list—situation awareness—synthesis) has been demonstrated to decrease medical errors, decrease preventable adverse events, and improve patient safety. In this study, an IPASS video module will be created and shown to every other group of medical students during the orientation of their third year clerkship in Pediatrics at Moses Cone Hospital. All students will be expected to provide verbal sign-out of their patients at the end of each shift on the inpatient service. Each student will then be evaluated by their supervising senior resident using an evaluation tool based on the IPASS system.