Clinical Pathways

Progress continues with specific aim #2 – design and implement integrated clinical pathways (ICPs) for two of the most common congenital heart disease diagnoses using the specific teamwork tools of TeamSTEPPS and evidence-based standardized care throughout the entire hospital stay.

The ICP template for ventricular septal defect (VSD) is in the final stages and close to full implementation. The packet includes:

- daily goals sheets outlining the standardized care plan for the patient’s post-operative stay in the PICU,
- standardized discharge goals that transfer with the patient to the CICC,
- handoff checklists for unit transfers, and
- a tool for when a patient goes “off path” and requires care different from the standard plan.

Toolkit

ICP tools posted on website:

- VSD Daily Goals Sheets - day of surgery, post-op day 1, post-op day 2
- VSD Goals for Discharge
Family Involvement Activities in PICU

Throughout the project, family advisors have been engaged with the project team in discussions about improving communication between families and providers. The following activities grew out of these discussions.

- Photos of attending physicians and fellows posted in every patient room and updated weekly (as seen in the sample to the right)
- Daily goals summarized during morning rounds and transcribed to a white board in the room
- Upcoming this quarter: communication training session for PICU staff led by family advisors to be videotaped

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