

A Quality Improvement Success from One Hospital in Illinois

The following is a synopsis of a QI project that we have completed in our Emergency Department.

1. It was decided in our Pediatric / Emergency Department PI meeting that we would look at the timely administration of IV antibiotics in our Emergency Department.
2. Baseline data was collected retrospectively on all children admitted with a diagnosis of rule out sepsis. Our target group was Neonates, we looked at all children to establish a broader baseline of information.
3. See attached graph – First and second quarter data collected –
 - Barriers identified & intervention devised
 - At the end of the second quarter an educational offering was given to the staff about IV antibiotic administration to infants. A syringe pump was made available as well as pre-filled syringes of medications from the pharmacy. The staff was asked to complete a quiz attached to a self-learning packet (attached).
 - Third quarter data collected and presented to staff & QI committee
4. We shortened the duration time of patient arrival > administration of first dose of medication, as well as time the physician saw the patient > administration of first dose of medication. (In all cases the septic work up ordered, was completed prior to medication)
5. Improvement on this process would be possible if data was collected for one month on only neonates. (This is a very small subgroup, but impacted the most by this issue)
6. It should be noted that this project was accomplished with only a cursory knowledge QI models and no previous experience with this type of work.

