IHI Releases Second Edition of Global Trigger Tool for Measuring Adverse Events

Traditional efforts to detect adverse events have focused on voluntary reporting and tracking of errors. However, public health researchers have established that only 10 to 20 percent of errors are ever reported and, of those, 90 to 95 percent cause no harm to patients. Hospitals need a more effective way to identify events that do cause harm to patients in order to quantify the degree and severity of harm, and to select and test changes to reduce harm.

To help hospitals in this effort the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) has released the Global Trigger Tool for Measuring Adverse Events. This valuable tool provides an easy-to-use method for accurately identifying adverse events (harm) as well as step-by-step instructions for using the tool to accurately identify adverse events (harm) and measure the rate of adverse events over time.

Tracking adverse events over time is a useful way to tell if changes being made are improving the safety of the care processes. The Trigger Tool methodology includes a retrospective review of a random sample of patient records using “triggers” (or clues) to identify possible adverse events. Many hospitals have used this tool to identify adverse events, to measure the level of harm from each adverse event, and to identify areas for improvement in their organizations. It is important to note, however, that the IHI Global Trigger Tool is not meant to identify every single adverse event in a patient record. The recommended time limitation for review and the random selection of records are designed to produce a sampling approach that is sufficient for the design of safety work in the hospital.

IHI formed the Idealized Design of the Medication System (IDMS) Group in May 2000. The group of 30 physicians, pharmacists, nurses, statisticians and other professionals established an aim to design a medication system that is safer by a factor of 10 and more cost-effective than systems currently in use. The Trigger Tool for Measuring Adverse Drug Events was initially developed by this group and provided the basis for development of subsequent Trigger Tools.

Save the Date

Sept. 10  CUSP ESRD Learning Session
Sept. 11  Issues in Critical Care and Sepsis Updates **Closed**
Sept. 25         Surgical Safety Learning Session
Sept. 30–Oct. 1  TeamSTEPPS Master Trainer Certification Program **Closed**
Oct. 14          Patient & Family Engagement/Changing Culture Learning Session
Oct. 24          Patient Throughput Collaborative Learning Session
Nov. 4           Obesity – Nutrition Learning Session
Nov. 5–6         I’m Still Here™: Montessori Model for Dementia Care
Nov. 11          Fall Perinatal Safety Collaborative Learning Session
Nov. 12          Adverse Drug Events Learning Session
Nov. 19          CAUTI Graduation
Nov. 20          Writing for Publishing
Dec. 5           MDRO/HAI Learning Session
Dec. 19          CUSP ESRD Learning Session

Click here to register.

Watch for our 2014 calendar – coming soon!

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