Background

- Children's Hospital & Medical Center is a Level II ACS-COT verified pediatric trauma center that admits nearly 400 trauma patients a year.
- Inconsistencies in identification and activation of the trauma team, along with delayed throughput of the patient was determined.
- Development of an Emergency Department (ED) Trauma Nurse Leader (TNL) position designated to take accountability for the trauma activations and assist with patient throughput.

Purpose

- Educates and empowers the nursing team.
- Collaborates with the trauma team to ensure the best possible care is delivered to the trauma patient.
- Safely and effectively expedites decisive trauma care across the system.

Methods

- Design:
  - Quality improvement
  - Mixed methods, explanatory design
- Setting:
  - Children's Hospital & Medical Center
  - Emergency Department and Trauma
- Sample:
  - ED Nurses
  - Purposive sampling
- Instruments:
  - Questionnaire
  - Epic Reports

Practice Implications

- Continued education, hands-on advanced skill stations.
- Trauma Talks with TNL staff.
- Self-constructive feedback and coaching.
- TNL courses offered twice a year.
- Recognition of exceptional trauma care.
- Continued improvements in trauma outcomes.
- Quarterly meetings with hands-on education.
- Nurse satisfaction and pride.

"By training an elite core of nurses, the TNL program provides the consistency needed for excellent trauma care," Dr. Shahab Abdessalam.

“The TNL program has established a standard practice for all traumas that holds everyone accountable for the same process every time. The TNL program has trained nurses to become experts in the trauma process, act as a resource for trauma education and feel empowered to speak up during high stress situations.”

Molly Johnson BSN, RN, TNL

TNL Role & Responsibility

- TNL course.
  - Qualifications: Current PALS, TNCC, and one year ED nursing experience.
  - Four hours per year of additional trauma education.
  - Education on trauma clinical skills and leadership skills.
- Identify trauma patient and activate trauma team.
- Team huddle, coordinates team and assigns roles prior to patient arrival.
- Team member identification stickers.
- Collaborates with team leader and trauma team.
- Ensures flow of Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) guidelines.
- Crowd and noise control.
- Documentation.
- Supervises trauma nursing care.
- Expedite care to safe and appropriate disposition.
- Debriefs with trauma team.

Findings

- Missed trauma activations decreased by 26%.
- Over trauma activations decreased by 18%.
- Disposition times met increased by 32%.
- Consistent increase in nursing confidence level with trauma nursing skills.

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