

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VANDERBILT ANTICIPATORY CARE TEAM MODEL

Pam Jones, DNP, NEA-BC, April N. Kapu, DNP, ACNP-BC and Nanyce Feitritzer, DNP, RN



Active, quality and safe health care, organizations are seeking new and innovative means to efficiently and effectively deliver evidence based care. The Vanderbilt Anticipatory Care Team (vACT) project was developed to address the costs associated with system inefficiencies that can lead to prolonged hospital length of stay, avoidable medical related complications and adverse events. Much of the system inefficiencies can be attributed to a lack of standardization of care within and across health care teams.

The design and implementation of the inpatient proof of concept for vACT project, specifically targeting the prevention and empowerment of the team, team construct, communication and effectiveness, utilization of a variety of routine and enhanced care and technology development to identify at risk patients.

The main types of inpatient provider-led health care teams: primary or patient care teams, dynamic or anticipatory care teams. vACT's proposition is that with adequate resources, these teams can be deployed to provide anticipatory care, thus becoming anticipatory care teams. It is expected that the anticipatory component will reduce the length of stay for patients at risk. Effective communication within and across teams, enhanced technology and patient care delivery system are essential to support the anticipatory care team. Key to the development of vACT, in collaboration with attending physicians, could be an effective provider to lead the patient care, dynamic or anticipatory care teams.

Components of this project included: 1. structured interviews to identify key components of empowerment, 2. a validated team performance tool designed to assess quality improvement in team based care, specifically cohesion, communication, role clarity and goals, 3. analysis of NP led teams to guide prospective NP role development, recruitment and training and 4. development of structured team huddles.

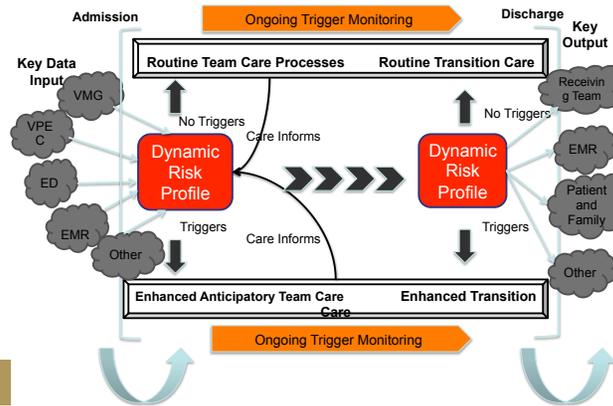
Findings revealed gaps in communication, coordination and opportunities for improvement in hospital acquired complications, readmission rates, pain management and patient satisfaction. After a 30 day implementation, preliminary outcomes on one feedback indicated high satisfaction from the vACT team members. Post team effectiveness surveys, and outcomes data related to the initial assessment are forthcoming.

Based on our preliminary assessment, it is our conclusion that with structural support and empowerment of teams, an effective team leader and coordinator of care, enhanced communication within and across teams and technology to evoke situational awareness, teams will experience increased cohesion and patient care outcomes will be improved.

BACKGROUND

- Communication failure
- Lack of protocol or policy
- Failure to operationalize MEWS/PEWS
- Readmission rates

PROCESS

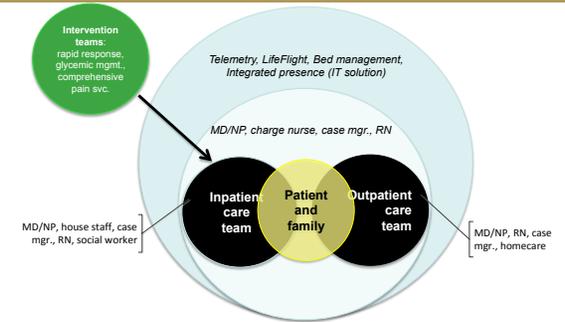


METHODS

Methodologies for the main components of this project included:

- Structured interviews to identify key components of empowerment
- Validated team performance tool designed to assess quality improvement in team based care, specifically cohesion, communication, role clarity and goals
- Retrospective analysis of NP led teams to guide prospective NP role development, recruitment and training
- Informatics tool to identify at risk patients and guide structured team huddles

FIGURES



CONCLUSION



Pre-implementation assessments revealed gaps in communication, coordination and opportunities for improvement in hospital acquired complications, length of stay, readmission rates, pain management and patient satisfaction. After a 30 day implementation, preliminary outcomes from observation and one on one feedback indicated high satisfaction from the vACT team members. Post team effectiveness surveys, and outcomes data related to the initial assessment are forthcoming.

Based on preliminary assessment, it is our conclusion that with structural support and empowerment of teams, an effective team leader and coordinator of care, enhanced communication within and across teams and technology to evoke situational awareness, teams will experience increased cohesion and patient care outcomes will be improved.