Assessing Physician Knowledge of IV Access

The Problem
In the last 10 years, the occurrence of peripheral IV-associated bloodstream infections (PIV-BSI) has increased beyond the expected number of cases. The etiology of this increase in incidence remains unclear. Potential contributory factors include a lack of awareness of the risk of IV access as well as a lack of standard process for IV site evaluation by physicians.

Aim/Goal
- To evaluate physician provider awareness of IV access on their current inpatient service
- To assess providers’ attitudes toward the physician role in monitoring IV access as well as the barriers to doing so

The Team
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The Interventions
- Developed a survey tool regarding PIVs in the inpatient setting to determine provider awareness to: presence of PIV, number of PIVs, insertion site
- Phase I: Survey administered by 4 medical residents on 3 inpatient floors and 2 MICUs to medical students, interns, residents and attending physicians
- Phase II: Developed and implemented survey regarding potential barriers to knowledge of PIV access

The Results/Progress to Date
139 responses from the medical floors and 68 responses from 2 MICUs were obtained. 86-100% of providers were able to confirm the presence or absence of PIVs. However, only 7.2% of interns, 9.4% of residents, and 30% of attendings were able to accurately confirm PIV location. Attending physicians were the most aware of the presence, number and location of PIVs.

Lessons Learned
Physician knowledge of PIV access is limited. The majority of providers identify the reason that they do not check PIV access is that they do not feel it is important, they have never thought about the need to check, or they do not feel it is their role.

Next Steps/What Should Happen Next
- Develop an educational intervention to increase provider awareness of the risk of PIV-associated bloodstream infection and relevance of PIV site monitoring.
- Increase communication of harm caused by PIV-related complications
- Modify the standard physician note and sign out to include details on the type, number and location of IV access sites to enhance reminders and standardization of monitoring.

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