Form Follows Function: Why an RN-Led ICU Regional Model of Palliative Care Works!

Innovative and Emerging Hospital Based Palliative Care Models

**Function**
- SOLUTION

**113 Bed Acute Care Hospital**
- Considered introducing by department
- Introduced hospital wide

**Low Patient Volumes**
- Realistic metric goal of 2 consults per month
- Educate Staff on Palliative Care (PC) appropriate patients
- Institute PRISM as screening tool

**Budgetary Constraints**
- Utilized ELNEC and EPEC training provided by CHE Trinity Health
- Hospital will benefit by shorter patient stays and decreased readmissions

**Physician Accessibility**
- Evaluated use of hospitalist vs. Board Certified PC physician
- Contracted with three PC Board Certified Physicians on consultative basis who service the region within CHE Trinity Health System

**Personnel Limitations**
- Identified staff with a passion for PC
- Coordinated RN Primary Schedule so an RN is available to complete the RN Initial Assessment and follow-up progress note

**Fragmentation**
- Email communication

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**Form**

**Attending Physician Places Consult**

1. Order Prints in ICU
2. Unit Secretary notifies RN on duty, PC MD on call, and PC site lead
3. RN completes RN Initial Assessment, discusses with MD, and notifies Interdisciplinary Team
4. MD, Interdisciplinary team, patient, and family coordinate a time for consultation and/or meeting
5. RN coordinates care, completes daily progress notes, and notifies PC MD of pertinent changes until discharge

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**Results**

- Exceeded Projected Metrics
  - Average of 4 consults per month (Doubled Metric)

**Interdisciplinary Team**
- Interdisciplinary team of pharmacy, social work, spiritual care, physicians, and nurses working together for the benefit of the patient
- Bimonthly case review meetings
- Improved communication

**Staff Acceptance**
- Verbalize understanding of PC
- Make suggestion to Attending Physician to obtain consults on PC appropriate patients

**Patient and Family Satisfaction**
- Positive feedback
- Verbalized greater understanding of disease
- Aids in decision making
- Greater sense that loved one’s wishes and desires are honored

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**EXAMPLE OF RN STRUCTURE**

Each RN holds a full-time position in addition to their dedication to Palliative Care

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X = 12 HR Dayshift  Xn = 12 HR Nightshift

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