**Burning Clinical Question**

Will implementing an education checklist improve nursing compliance with pathway documentation for Heart Failure (HF) patients?

**Background/Triggers**
- Our HF department struggled with inconsistent documentation of care plans and patient education pathways, which are in two separate locations in the Electronic Medical Record (EMR).
- Through random audits we discovered a lack of consistent documentation on pathways.
- Leadership and nurses voiced concern that pathways were not always documented until day of discharge.
- Knowledge deficit on how to accurately and efficiently document on pathways.
- Joint Commission Standards emphasize the need for inter-disciplinary care plans which are individualized to the patient.
- HF patients require comprehensive education to reduce readmissions.

**Evidence**
- HF patients require comprehensive education to prevent readmissions.
- 54% of readmissions may be preventable and inadequate discharge planning and education are common factors in readmission.
- Educating patients before discharge promotes self-care, reduces admissions, and helps patients identify problems early.
- Heart Failure Society of American recommends that patient education materials include:
  - Activity level
  - Diet
  - Discharge medications
  - Follow-up appointment
  - Weight monitoring
  - What to do if signs or symptoms worsen
- Lack of easy documentation in the EMR is a perceived barrier to provide HF patient education.
- Creating a checklist can help staff know what education the patient has received.

**Practice Change**
- Our team decided to use the Iowa Model to examine the evidence HF education and documentation.
- Required staff education session which included the following:
  - Selection of correct pathway
  - Documenting on pathway
  - Documenting barriers to progression
  - Starting patient education
  - Resolving education
  - Teach back method
  - HF education tips
- Created a bedside checklist to assist nurses with patient education and documentation.
- One-on-one education sessions to ensure nurses were familiar with how to navigate the EMR.

**Evaluation**
- Implementation of checklist combined with focused staff education dramatically increased our documentation compliance.
- Our bedside checklist along with daily huddle reminders help to ensure nursing compliance with patient education and pathway documentation.
- Nursing voiced improvement of knowledge deficit concerning pathway documentation.
- By improving documentation of care plans and education, we are ensuring that our HF patients are benefiting from best practices in HF care.
- Our unit's HF readmission rate remains at 14.45%.

**HF Patient Education Audit Tool**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heart Failure Patient Education Audits</th>
<th>Education Checklist</th>
<th>Results</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Is the patient on the correct pathway in CHL?</td>
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<td>2. If needed, does the patient have the appropriate barriers documented in CHL?</td>
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<td>3. Is it documented in Patient Education that the patient received the Heart Failure booklet?</td>
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**References**