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Acute pain management service Performance report, Q4 2020 SUNY Downstate-HSU

Introduction: The Joint Commission published the Pain Assessment and Management Standards for Critical Access Hospitals in the 2018 R3 (Requirement, Rationale, Reference) Report. In response, the SUNY Downstate Pain Management and Safe Opioid Prescribing Committee sought to review and revise acute pain management service policies to make them compliant with these standards. A baseline audit was conducted in the last quarter (Q4) of 2019 and a need for improvement was identified. A follow-up audit is being conducted for Q4 of 2020 to reassess service quality and areas of improvement.

Methods: Data was gathered from the electronic medical records (EMR) of all in-patient acute pain management consults from October 1 to December 31, 2019. Baseline performance metrics were collected, including perioperative pain intensity scores, opioid usage in cumulative Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME), non-opioid analgesic usage, incidence of opioid side effects, and attainment of pain treatment goals. Baseline performance will be compared with data gathered from a follow-up audit in Q4 of 2020.

Results: Sixty-four consults were identified in the 2019 baseline audit. Highest pain intensity scores were reported in POD1 [moderate(14%) and severe(41%) pain; VAS = 4-10]. Opioid usage across surgical services were less than 50 MME/day with orthopedic patients having the lowest cumulative MME usage(20.36 MME avg). Intramuscular administration of analgesics was still practiced in the PACU(20%) and POD1(38%).

Conclusion: The baseline audit in 2019 identified areas of improvement for the SUNY Downstate Acute Pain Management service. In-service education and policy changes addressing these areas have been instituted by the service. A follow-up audit planned for the 1st quarter (Q1) of 2020 was hindered by the COVID pandemic and was instead conducted in Q4 of 2020. We are in the process of analyzing the results of the follow-up audit which will be presented on the 2021 Annual Research Day.