

Evaluating Practice-Based Learning: Distribution of Cardiology Consultation Requests

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Rationale: The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education requires proficiency in the core competencies including Practice-Based Learning and Improvement that involves practice analysis and quality improvement.

Methods: We recorded the dates and times in which a Cardiology consultation was requested, defined as either a page by the Cardiology service or a direct call to the primary consultant, at two large, academic medical centers (Kings County Hospital Center in September 2021 & University Hospital of Brooklyn (UHB) in December 2021), between the working hours of 8 AM and 5 PM. The time between 8 AM and 12 noon was defined as early consult, and 12 noon to 5 PM as late consult.

Results: There were a total of 389 general cardiology consult requested across two institutions, 210 at Kings and 179 at UHB. The overall median age of consults requested at Downstate was 66 years (IQR: 55.5 – 76), with 62% female. Thirty-one percent (31%) of the contact pages to the Cardiology service were new consults, and the median Length of stay 10 days. Among the consults, 7 (1.8%) patients died during admission, 4 female, 3 male. Weekday consult was significantly highest on Tuesdays. There were 46% early consults, and 54% late consults.

Discussion: There was a significant difference in Cardiology consultation request volume across weekdays. Afternoon consult was greater in volume than morning consult although this was not significant. 69 % of the consult requests were follow-up consults illustrating the increased need for continued co-management with principal care teams.