Quality Improvement: Using Epilepsy Clinic Template to Improve Documentation and Quality of Care

Background: Epilepsy is a chronic neurological disorder estimated to affect 3.4 million people in the United States. Patients with epilepsy can often experience poor physical and mental health, among other hardships that can affect their overall quality of life. Not only does epilepsy affect the child's quality of life in the present time, but the quality of epilepsy management can also significantly affect the child's future.

Purpose: To improve the quality of patient care and EMR documentation in pediatric epilepsy clinic by using a templated note.

Methods: We have created a templated note which includes 4 different quality measurements, 2 of which were obtained from the 2016 AAN Child Neurology Quality Measurement set (Rescue medication and neuropsychological/neurodevelopmental screening) and 2 from the 2017 AAN Epilepsy Quality Measurement Set (seizure frequency and anxiety/depression screening). Templates were used by child neurology fellows in the pediatric epilepsy clinic. Data was obtained from August to December 2022.

Results: Using our epilepsy clinic template, seizure frequency and rescue medications were documented 100% and 96% of the time, respectively (vs 70% and 55% using other templates). Screening of depression/anxiety was done in 58% of the cases (compared to 0% using other templates).

Conclusion: One of the many advantages of using EMR is the ability to use templated notes to document patient care. Even in the short duration of this intervention, the epilepsy clinic template has proven to be a promising method to improve documentation in a way that can help us appreciate a patient's seizure burden and ultimately aid in the management of the patient's condition, as well as improving the screening for anxiety and depression in patients with epilepsy, a population with a high prevalence of mental health problems.