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Objective

- To facilitate timely evaluation, treatment, and discharge of patients admitted for suspicion of new Rheumatologic Diagnoses
- To improve familiarity and competency with appropriate evaluation of new rheumatology patients for care providers interfacing with the Rheumatology service (Residents, Nursing Staff)

Recommendations

- The Rheumatology Admit order set will be utilized for all patients admitted to the Rheumatology Service with suspicion of a new Rheumatologic Diagnosis (Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Juvenile Dermatomyositis, Primary Vasculitis, Macrophage Activation Syndrome)
- The Rheumatology New Diagnosis Pathway provides an overview of the appropriate evaluation process for these patients as well as providing guidance for treatment initiation and discharge planning.

Rationale

VARIATION: There is currently considerable variation with regards to care for patients admitted for suspected new Rheumatologic diagnoses. Due to relative rarity of Rheumatologic disorders and frequent rotation of resident and nursing staff, these front-line providers may have little familiarity with the disorders in question which may lead to confusion around plan of care and a fragmented experience for patients and families. The intent of this project is to establish a standardize approach to the admission process.

- Safety may be enhanced by improving staff understanding of plan of care and reducing opportunities for error related to variations in practice.
- Costs may be reduced by streamlining diagnostics studies and early anticipation of discharge needs, potentially decreasing length of stay.
- Delivery of care will be improved by expediting patient flow through the inpatient setting and facilitating transition to outpatient care in the Rheumatology Clinic.
- Quality of care will improve by ensuring completeness of appropriate evaluation and consistency in medication education and discharge preparation.
- Engagement is grounded in the fact that the pathway has been developed by RNs and MDs in response to frequent requests for a consolidated Rheumatology order set by rotating resident MD's.
- Patient/Family Satisfaction will be addressed by implementing clinical standard work that will assure the highest quality of care, including consistent messaging from nursing, resident and attending Rheumatology Staff.

Evidence

- No literature review was completed for this phase of the project; it is planned for the next phase.

Rheumatology New Diagnosis – November 2011

Executive Summary

- The Rheumatology New Diagnosis Pathway was developed by the physicians in the Seattle Children's Rheumatology Division and reflects consensus as to sound practices for evaluation, treatment initiation and discharge preparation for this patient population.

Implementation Items

- Presentation of Rheumatology New Diagnosis Pathway to Rheumatology Division at quarterly Morbidity and Mortality Meeting: Sept 22, 2011.
- Order set development and implementation: Aug 1, 2011.
- Communication to resident staff, nursing staff, physical/occupational therapy, nutrition services.
- Ongoing staff support and education.

Metrics Plan

CSW Core Metrics

1. Count of Inpatient/Observation discharges
2. Median Length of Stay
3. % of patients admitted to Team 6 with specified order set
4. Average charges per case
5. Readmission

Additional metrics related to resident education, family experience and drivers of inpatient length of stay to be added with next PDCA cycle

PDCA Plan

- Annual compilation of data from inpatient admissions
- Next cycle to include directed literature review for amenable clinical questions
- Addition of metrics related to educational experience pending completion of adjunctive educational module

Revision History

Date Approved: November 2011

Revision Date: November 2014