Growing Up in the NICU: A Quality Improvement Initiative  
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Background
- In the NICU, about 10% (6-12 patients) of the inpatient population fall out of the neonatal age group and are pediatric patients (≥44 weeks corrected gestational age [CGA]).
- The goals of NICU care have changed from securing infant survival to optimizing long-term health and development. (1)
- Neurodevelopmental outcomes for many premature infants continue to be a challenge—there is more attention being paid to the significant number of NICU graduates who have neuropsychological deficits (2).
- The below anonymous survey was sent out to all NICU nurses in 2013:

Do you think the NICU could benefit from more education on caring for infants ≥44 weeks CGA?

![Image]

Goal

The goal is to increase bedside nurses’ knowledge of pediatric medical and developmental care and implement quality improvements in the NICU.

Acknowledgements

- Chronic Care Task Force Members
- VCH Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- VUMC Evidence Based Nursing Practice Fellowship
- Photo Credit: Vanderbilt

References


Pediatric PICC Practice Guideline

- Background: No practice guideline available to staff. The below anonymous survey was sent to staff and indicated more education was needed
- Intervention: Practice guideline written and staff educated through various educational strategies over 6 months. Bedside RN knowledge measured with pre and post-intervention survey
- Outcome: Knowledge improved

NICU Toy Donation Wish List

- Background: No toy list available for the community to find the NICU’s toy needs
- Intervention: Toy donation “Wish List” created
- Outcome: Increase in NICU donations, including swings, gliders, mirrors, and other developmental toys

Chronic Care Task Force

Interdisciplinary team of 40 providers
- Background: The goal of the Chronic Care Task Force (CCTF) is to bring together various members of the healthcare team in an effort to gain knowledge of practices that may improve pediatric patients’ quality of life. The focus of meetings is to educate committee members by working together with fellow team colleagues and ancillary services in VCH, CCTF members will continually seek to improve the health outcomes of the pediatric population, and go beyond simply fulfilling these infants’ physiological needs to expanding and improving their cognitive, emotional, and social development.
- Intervention: Meetings occur every six weeks. Speakers have included Pediatric PICC nurse, PMAC Nurse Educator, VUMC Biomedical Ethicist, pediatric PT, OT, & speech, and NICU developmental clinic NP
- Outcome: Group members have implemented multiple QI initiatives throughout the NICU

Volunteer Cuddler Education

- Background: NICU cuddlers needed education on developmental needs of the pediatric patient
- Intervention: Informational handout included in cuddler orientation

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NICU “Christmas in July” Toy Drive

- Background: To increase the number of developmentally appropriate toys in the NICU
- Intervention: NICU nurses donate various infant toys through the month of July
- Outcome: Increased NICU toys available for patient use

Completed Initiatives

Nurses’ Knowledge of Pediatric PICCs Following Intervention

![Image]

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References


Conclusion

- Increased awareness of pediatric population and their medical and developmental needs
- Need for unit-based, interdisciplinary leadership team to round on pediatric patients