Wound Care Documentation
Improvement in the EHR

Pressure Ulcer Documentation

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Discussion Points

• Patient Population Health
• EHR Problem List
• Severity of Pressure Ulcer
• LGH Pressure Ulcer Documentation EHR Initiative
• Problem List technology in the EHR
Patient Population Health

TRIPLE AIM!

Population Health Management is:
A health system and network of providers working in a coordinated way to improve the overall health and well being of patients across all care settings under a risk-bearing financial arrangement.
To manage a population, you need to know who they are and how they are segmented by risk.
Accountable Care Organization: A new payment and delivery model designed to improve health care and lower costs.

Primary objectives:

1. Improve quality of service
   - Improving quality improves outcomes and drives down cost

2. Achieve cost savings
   - ACO transformation must substantially contribute to reducing costs

3. Raise patient satisfaction
   - Improve the patient experience through a collaborative approach centered on health promotion and quality of life
The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: encourages nationwide adoption of EHRs that improve patient care. Requires the problem list contain all past and existing diagnoses, pathophysiological states, potentially significant abnormal physical signs and laboratory findings, disabilities, and unusual conditions.\(^6\)

The importance of using a problem list within EHRs is to facilitate communication and documentation to enhance provider and patient engagement in care planning. Essential to improve overall patient care.

Reference: AHIMA guidelines *Problem List Guidance in the EHR*
Complications of pressure ulcers include:

- **Sepsis**: Sepsis occurs when bacteria enter the bloodstream through broken skin and spread throughout the body. It's a rapidly progressing, life-threatening condition that can cause organ failure.

- **Cellulitis**: Cellulitis is an infection of the skin and connected soft tissues. It can cause severe pain, redness and swelling. People with nerve damage often do not feel pain with this condition. Cellulitis can lead to life-threatening complications.

- **Bone and joint infections**: An infection from a pressure sore can burrow into joints and bones. Joint infections (septic arthritis) can damage cartilage and tissue. Bone infections (osteomyelitis) may reduce the function of joints and limbs. Such infections can lead to life-threatening complications.
Pressure Ulcer Documentation

Documentation elements required in I10 remains the same:

- Site of pressure ulcer
- Stage of pressure ulcer

Codes from category L89, Pressure ulcer, are now combination codes.

Site + location/laterality + Stage + POA = Pressure ulcer code

- L89.000 Pressure ulcer of unspecified elbow, unstageable
- L89.011 Pressure ulcer of right elbow, stage 1
- L89.95 Pressure ulcer of unspecified site, unstageable
Coding Jeopardy

The number of ICD-10-CM diagnostic Pressure ulcer codes

183
Documentation Improvement
Opportunity Identified

Issue: Nursing Event report discrepancy with the number of clinically coded pressure ulcers

Focus review Findings:

46% Presence of event report within nursing notes without pressure ulcer final coded

Lacked Physician clinical documentation of pressure ulcer in the EHR
Pressure Ulcer Pilot Program

- Unit nurse identifies and documents presence of pressure ulcer on nursing flowsheet within the EHR
- Wound care nurse assesses the patient for pressure ulcer
  - WC nurse validates presence of pressure ulcer and verifies site, stage, POA
  - WC nurse documents in nursing flow sheet with treatment plan
- WC nurse adds pressure ulcer diagnosis to EHR Problem list and resolves any previous pressure ulcer as healed/closed
Trivia

• Who created the problem list?

• The problem list was originally created by Lawrence Weed in the 1960s as part of his recommendation for a problem-oriented medical record.
Benefits of the Problem List

- Helps identify the most important health factors for each patient care
- Used to identify disease-specific populations.
- Basis for determining standard measures or report cards in healthcare
- Used to identify patients for potential research studies.

*Unfortunately, the exclusion of a diagnosis from the problem list comes at the expense of the patient.*

(Journal of AHIMA, Casey Homes)
EHR Problem List Technology

LGH workflow changes within the HER

– Wound care nurse documents the pressure ulcer site and stage on problem list
– Diagnosis of Pressure ulcer on the problem list then auto-populates the Wound care nurses notes and
– Physician notes
Audit Results of Solution

Solution: WC nurse adds pressure ulcer diagnosis to EHR Problem list

- **Pre-Pilot**
  46% Lacked Physician clinical documentation

- **Post-Pilot**
  89% Pressure Ulcer Clinical Documentation
  Improvement realized within the EHR with
  improved clinical coding in support of
  appropriate reimbursement and reporting
Pressure Ulcer Stage 3/4

41% with Stage 3 and 4 impacted MS-DRG as a Major Morbid condition (MCC) in relative weight, LOS, and severity =

Increased Reimbursement = $306,448
with LOS 146 days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MS-DRGs with MCC</th>
<th>MS-DRGs without MCC</th>
<th>Potential Miss</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relative Weights (total)</td>
<td>$306,448</td>
<td>$129,888</td>
<td>$176,550</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Blended rate = Expected Reimbursement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Average LOS (total)</td>
<td>146 days</td>
<td>70 days</td>
<td>76 days</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• Value the Importance of documentation to the quality of patient care, patient population health, quality measures, and revenue cycle (hospital/physician)

• Value the use of technological advances in the EHR to meet the Triple Aim

• It takes a village
Thank you!

Questions?