

A Resident Developed Morbidity and Mortality Conference with a Patient Safety Focus

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Program Description

Program Evaluation

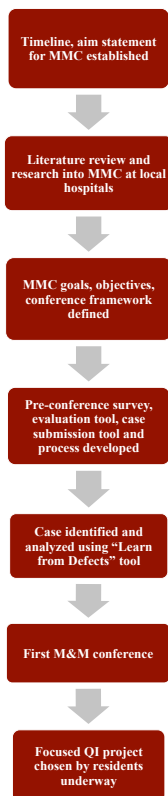
Steps in the development of the new MMC

Context

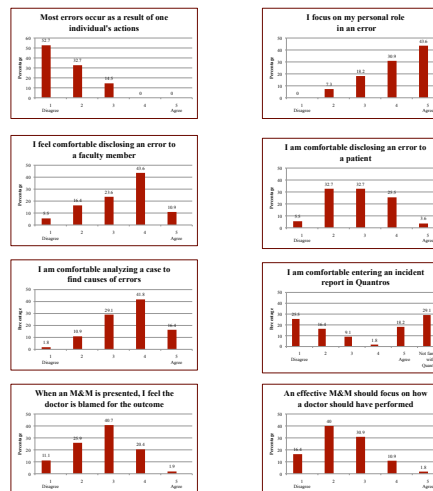
- Morbidity and Mortality conferences (MMC) are required by the ACGME for many specialties.
- Traditionally, MMC focused on individual actions and knowledge gaps.
- However, MMC provides a unique opportunity to focus residents on quality improvement (QI).
- MMC topics with a patient safety focus instruct in all six of the ACGME core competencies with a particular focus on systems-based practice and practice-based learning.

Background

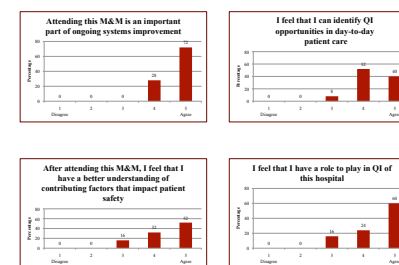
- Junior and senior pediatric residents created a general pediatrics morbidity and mortality conference.
- Part of a longitudinal resident quality improvement curriculum.
- Conference focus on patient safety issues.
- Using quality improvement methodology, faculty advisors guided the longitudinal project.
- Residents experience hands on QI methodology as they create and maintain the conference.
- Subsequent resident-driven QI projects arise from suggestions from the M&M conferences and cases.
- Offspring QI projects allow residents to experience real-time hospital QI processes to implement change.



Pre-conference attitudes survey



Conference evaluation



Interesting points

- Though residents did not believe most errors were the result of one person's actions, they focused on their personal role in an error.
- While most residents felt comfortable disclosing errors to faculty, very few felt comfortable disclosing to a patient/family.
- Many residents felt comfortable analyzing cases for causes of errors however most residents were not familiar with the incident reporting system used by the hospital.
- Overall views about MMC show that residents do not focus on the individual physician but rather the system, which is consistent with a QI approach to MMC.

Conclusions

- A fresh outlook on the traditional Morbidity and Mortality conference offers an opportunity for teaching quality improvement concepts.
- QI-focused MMC involves residents in real-time QI projects related to patient care which can:
 - Expose residents to QI personnel and ongoing systems improvement processes
 - Pique and nurture an interest that may be continued after training
 - Broaden residents' perspectives regarding the delivery of patient care
 - Improve patient safety
- Training and modeling medical error disclosures to residents is necessary.
- Residents benefit from training on reporting patient safety events.