

Student Projects

Summer 2018

Kardex Accuracy Study

A study was completed in order to determine the accuracy of the current kardex; a medical information system used by nursing staff that provides a summary of individual patient needs at St. Joseph's Manor. It was concluded that the kardex did not provide a complete overview of resident's medical status and a change needed to be implemented to the current system. With this information, staff at St. Joseph's Manor are now working on creating a more efficient system.

The image shows a sample of a medical Kardex form, which is a summary of a patient's needs. The form is tilted and contains the following sections:

- Header:** Name, DOB, Admit Date, Code Status.
- Medical Information:** Admitting Diagnosis, Allergies, Medications, Medical History, Surgical History.
- Vital Signs:** A table for recording T (Temp), P (Pulse), R (Respirations), BP (Blood Pressure), O2 (Oxygen Saturation), BG (Blood Glucose), and I/O (Intake/Output).
- Neuro:** Neurological status.
- Pain:** Pain level and management.
- Pre-Assessment:** A table for recording vital signs before a procedure.
- Post-Assessment:** A table for recording vital signs after a procedure.
- Medications:** Last PRN Pain Med @, Night Shift Information, PCA (Patient Controlled Analgesia) details, Activity, Diet, Tube Feed, Contact, Rate.
- Diagnosis:** A list of diagnostic tests including SWC, HSE, HCT, PT, PT, INR, JPT.
- Notes:** A section for additional notes.
- To Do:** A section for tasks to be completed.
- Meds @:** A table for recording medication times from 8 to 19.

Improving Medical Records for Physicians in Long Term Care

Working under the direction of Dr. Spencer, the use of cumulative patient profiles and SOAP charting was implemented at St. Joseph's Manor. SOAP charting is an acronym (Subjective, Objective, Assessment and Plan) used for medical documentation that allows the physician to make a complete analysis of the patient's state upon their visitation. This, along with a completed CPP, would allow the physician to have all necessary information on hand. With these additions, it will be simpler for the physician to facilitate their medical decision-making as well as provide convenience and efficiency during rounds.

Client Name _____
Date _____

S: _____
O: _____
A: _____
P: _____

PAIN POSTURE

Assessing Narcotic Distribution in the Community

As part of an ongoing study, the research students worked with pharmacies in the surrounding area to try to gain an understanding of the amount of narcotics distributed annually in the North Shore. The study included pharmacies from Espanola to Bruce Mines. The goal was to determine the trends in narcotic distribution over the past seven years and compare communities within the North Shore. In doing so, it was expected that any significant differences in narcotic distribution would be highlighted and later assessed. This study will be continued into the month of September.



Summer Camps

For one week in July, all three students volunteered at Camp Quality Northern Ontario, a camp for children and siblings of children with cancer. They worked as both one-on-one companions, lifeguards and ran science activities.

During the month of August, the students worked in Southampton for two weeks running STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) camps sponsored by Bruce Power and WIN (Women in Nuclear). The first week was run at the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON), the second at Bruce Power itself.



Post-Operative Wound Care Study

Guided by Dr. Stirling, the students completed a literature review on Comparison of Clinical Practice for Post Operative Wound Care to assess the feasibility of a study. The review looked primarily at studies which challenged the WHO guidelines on post operative wound care which state a surgical site should remain dry for forty-eight hours after surgery. The information collected from the literature review will be analyzed and used to form an original study. Following ethical approval, it is hoped that the study will be conducted at St. Joseph's General Hospital within the next year and the data will be interpreted during the summer of 2019 to yield results.

Previous Student Projects

Summer 2016 & 2017

Analysis of Breastfeeding Trends and Resources in Elliot Lake

As part of an initiative lead by Dr. Groh, the summer students along with Algoma Public Health, Elliot Lake Family Health Team and the local midwife generalized trends of breastfeeding in Elliot Lake. They contacted mothers who had given birth within the year prior and asked questions regarding their breastfeeding methods, any problems they experienced, any services they felt were useful, any services that were lacking etc. The goal of this project was to identify where mothers in the community faced barriers when it came to breastfeeding, in hopes that once these problems were recognized, the medical community could work together to accommodate.

The Age Friendly Project

With the majority of the Elliot Lake community being senior citizens, the Age Friendly Project was an important task. In partnership with the City of Elliot Lake, the students worked to create a survey for Elliot Lake residents regarding local health care, transportation and safety. Through these surveys, they were able to specifically identify issues in the community that would prevent Elliot Lake from being Age Friendly. The City of Elliot Lake was then able to implement a plan of action to solve these issues and better service its majority population; Elliot Lake hopes to soon be accredited as an age friendly community.

STEM Summer Camps

As part of its collaboration with NOSM, NWMO and the local northern communities, the Elliot Lake Local Education Group had their summer students organize and teach STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) camp in four different communities. In an attempt to disperse opportunity throughout the North, the camps were situated in Elliot Lake, Blind River, Spanish and Mississaugi First Nation. With the high success of the camps, it is something NOSM, ELLEG and the students hope to do again in the future.

