**Bronchiolitis: When Less is More**

Joanne McClune, Ward Sister Maynard; Alison Smyth, Deputy Sister; Helen Hamilton, Staff Nurse Barbara Todd, Staff Nurse RRU; Thomas Toner, Deputy Charge Nurse ED; Laura McConaghy ST7

**Mentor:** Dr. Bernadette O’Connor

**Background**
- Bronchiolitis is a seasonal viral illness which affects one in three infants. Symptoms include respiratory distress and feeding difficulties. High inpatient numbers strongly contribute to winter pressure on Children’s wards.
- The new NICE guidelines for management of infants with Bronchiolitis (2015) recommend specific admission and discharge criteria, and guide management. The current recommendation is for supportive measures only (no routine suction, O₂, medications, nebulisers, XR or bloods).

**Aims**
- Increase staff adherence to new NICE guideline for bronchiolitis in Children’s Unit and Emergency Department (ED) by 50% by March 2019.
- Decrease unnecessary interventions for infants with bronchiolitis in Children’s unit and ED by 50% by March 2019.

**Improvement Methodology**
- Multi Unit and Multidisciplinary focus following the patient journey providing continuity of care.

**ED**

**RRU**

**Inpatient**

**Outcome Measures**
- Staff awareness of NICE guideline.
- Staff confidence for providing care.
- Staff knowledge of content of guidelines.
- Number of unnecessary investigations carried out and unnecessary treatments given.

**PDSA Cycles**
1. Guideline emailed and on notice boards.
2. Summary posters.
3. Differential Diagnosis and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) testing/no suction (posters).
4. Teaching sessions.
5. Pocket cards and Multi Unit simulation.
6. STOP! THINK? DO!
7. Minimal Handling information.

**Results**
- Average admission rate reduced to 32% and estimated 43 avoided admissions.
- Estimated saving of over £70,000.
- Reduced length of stay (1.825 → 1.6 days).
- Resource savings: equipment, medications, investigations.
- Fewer clinical interventions resulting in increased time to care.
- No transfers to other hospitals this winter due to lack of beds.

**Future Plans**
- Expand education programme to GPs and other EDs in trust.
- Continued education to new staff, students, ED.
- Update Trust Bronchiolitis policy.
- Seek parent feedback to refine patient information leaflets/educational tools.
- Improve RSV testing uptake.

**Parent Feedback**
"Information and reassurance given to me by staff in RRU gave me the confidence to care for my baby at home"