A health care system to meet our needs

The Power of Innovation

Kylie Wright
Clinical Nurse Consultant
Neurosurgery
Liverpool Hospital
Our Innovation: How We Improved Care/Services

• Certain Neurosurgical drains require suturing post removal
• Historically suturing has been the responsibility of medical staff
• Clinical review identified delays having these drains removed and the site sutured
“A Stitch in Time” Project
Nurses suturing post neurosurgical drain removal

• Aim was to minimise patient immobility and maximise opportunities to improve patient outcomes by reducing the average time for drain removal and suturing.
Our Innovation: How We Improved Care/Services

Phase 1 Results

Introduction of nurse suturing

n=117
Our Innovation: How We Improved Care/Services

Phase 2 Results

• Improved from 47% to 52% of drain sites being sutured by nurses
• Further improvement to 61%
• 100% of occasions sutured within the 2 hour benchmark
• No CSF leaks or infections
Our Innovation: How We Improved Care/Services

- Nurses embraced the opportunity
- Nurses felt very valued and enthusiastic
- Enjoyed the technical and practice aspects
- Improving patient outcomes → motivating and satisfying
Our Inspiration:
The Start of the Journey

• Patients were waiting extended periods of time to have drains removed due to a shortage of experienced medical staff able to undertake the suturing

• The drain removal was ordered on morning rounds, and was not removed until late in the evening
Impact on Patients

• Patient discomfort
• Loss of independence
• Increased risk of complications associated with prolonged immobilisation

Asked the question?
Can a nurse do this suturing?
Our Idea Comes to Life

- Registered Nurses (RNs) to gain accreditation for the procedure of suturing drain sites after neurosurgical drain removal.

Set a benchmark to remove and suture drains within 2 hours of request for removal.
Our Idea Comes to Life

- Consultation process
  - gain support
  - recognition as an advanced clinical skill
  - expansion of the neurosurgical nursing role
- CNC Neurosurgery be trained initially
- Practice change outcomes to be reviewed and analysed
- Train more RNs in the future
Our Idea Comes to Life

Planning and Implementation

• Development of a Policy
• Competency assessment tool
• Booklet to record training processes
• Suturing experience logbook
Our Idea Comes to Life

• **Phase 1** - trial undertaken by the CNC, including education and evaluation of the outcomes.

• **Phase 2** - depended on the outcomes of Phase 1, and involved the expansion of the project to other staff members.

• **Problem** – Nurses attending Suturing workshop
Our Insights: What We Have Learned

Keys to success

• Collaboration
• Strong leadership and support
• Dedicated nursing education was provided and formally recognised
• Timely feedback of results
Our Insights: What We Have Learned

- Positive effects on nursing practice
- Positive effects on patient outcomes
- Prevents known complications of bed-rest

Efficiency Saving shifting the task from medical to nursing

FLOW ON BENEFITS

Immeasurable savings to patients and families
Conclusion

• Rethinking of roles
• Enabling nurses to gain accreditation for the procedure of suturing
• Timely patient care
• Achieve neuroscience nursing
  • professional development
  • satisfaction
  • strengthening of career pathways
Kylie Wright
Clinical Nurse Consultant
Neurosurgery
Liverpool Hospital
NSW Australia
Kyliem.wright@sswahs.nsw.gov.au