PICU NURSING RESEARCH PRIORITIES IN THE UK AND IRELAND

Background and aims of the PICS-SG Nursing group

- A nursing subgroup of the paediatric intensive care society (PICS) study group (SG) was established in late 2007 with an attempt to have representation from as many UK and Irish units as possible.
- The terms of reference of the group were to: 1) survey national paediatric intensive care practice (through audit) 2) acquire new knowledge by structured observation (through audit) and 3) improve patient care by conducting rigorous research studies.
- PICS-SG is predominantly a medically-driven group, this subgroup aims to provide a strong nursing voice to this group.
- A further function of this group is the need to foster an environment of collegiality and collaboration amongst PICU research nurses around the UK and Ireland and to develop links with European PIC nurse researchers and international links.
- The group met in March 2010 to establish research priorities for PIC nursing research where an initial brainstorming session elicited a number of broad themes, which were then voted on to achieve six top priority themes.
- Further discussion led to specific areas/questions for audit or research under these themes, with a lead for each of these groups.
Results

The six priority research themes agreed were:

- Patient deterioration
- PIC nursing workforce
- Family/parent/psychosocial issues in PIC
- Pain, sedation and withdrawal
- Risk reduction in PIC
- Nutrition and feeding in PIC
Theme 1: Patient deterioration

Specific ideas/questions:
- What is the role of vital sign monitoring in the prediction of deterioration of children?
- What are the views of nurses and parents in using PEWS?
- Why don’t all children who trigger PEW get appropriate management?
- Re-audit of all PEWS in use in the UK?
Theme 2: Nursing Workforce

Specific ideas/questions:
- Audit of PIC nurse staffing against new PICS standards
- Evaluation of e-rostering in PICU
Theme 3: Family/parent/psychosocial issues in PIC

Specific ideas/questions:
- Parent’s experiences of transfer to the ward from PICU
- PICU follow-up clinics
- Parental choices in PIC
- Child’s perspective of PIC: QOL, recall, psychological outcomes
- Mother’s versus father’s experiences of PIC
- How to get user involvement in PIC
- Sleep deprivation in PIC and outcomes
Theme 4: Pain/sedation and withdrawal

Specific ideas/questions:
- Withdrawal symptoms in PIC and nurse and family experiences of withdrawal
- More work on COMFORT score
- Does BIS assist in sedation assessment in NMB children in PIC
- Sedation weaning regimes
- Sedation cycling
Theme 5: Risk reduction in PIC

Specific ideas/questions:
- Evaluation of care bundles in PIC to reduce HCAIs
- Defining VAP
- Audit of unit’s who are contributing to Matching Michigan data
- Drug errors on PIC – use of a reporting tool
- Developing an interactive package for drug calculations (MD)
- Ways to reduce drug errors – prescribing and administration
- Family involvement after drug errors
- Aseptic non-touch technique
Theme 6: Nutrition and feeding in PIC

Specific ideas/questions:

- Survey of ICU nurses’ and doctors’ knowledge and views of enteral feeding in PIC (local and national)
- Very early (6hr) versus early 24 hour feeding and outcomes in PIC
- Evaluation of 24 hourly continuous feeding in PIC
The way forward

- Bi-annual meetings
- Shared e-database of contacts/expertise within the group
- Sub-groups to work on individual projects
- Group to develop European and International PIC nursing links with a view to collaborative projects in the future (ESPNIC, WFPICS)
- A 1.5 day meeting is arranged in Liverpool, UK for 23rd & 24th May 2011

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