Education of heparin per pharmacy guidelines to increase compliance, safety, and pharmacists’ management of heparin infusions

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Background:
- Element of Performance 4 of The Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goal 03.05.01 requires that hospitals have a written policy that addresses the need for baseline and ongoing laboratory tests to monitor and adjust anticoagulant therapy.1
- Providence Medford Medical Center (PMMC) has a written Anticoagulation Management General Operating Policy (GOP) for heparin orders managed through nursing or pharmacy.
- Currently, most heparin orders are nurse-managed and have resulted in omitted labs and dosing errors.

Purpose:
- To educate pharmacists at PMMC on the Providence Oregon Region heparin guidelines as our hospital moves towards increasing pharmacy's management of heparin infusions.
- To increase safety and GOP compliance of heparin infusions at PMMC.

Methods:
- Pharmacists were trained in the Providence Oregon Region Heparin Guidelines through an education session and quiz
- Patients who received a heparin per pharmacy order
- Pharmacists' completed post-education surveys
- Heparin per pharmacy orders

Primary Outcome Results:
- Number of completed surveys: 8
- Average Pre-Education score: 2.9/5
- Average Post-Education score: 4.4/5
- Average score difference: +1.5
- Practice quiz helpfulness: 4.4/5
- Education session helpfulness: 4.8/5

Secondary Outcomes Results:
- Number of heparin per pharmacy orders (from 2/20/20 to 4/9/20): 11 orders (9 orders managed by pharmacists)
- Required baseline labs ordered: 100%
- Required follow-up labs ordered: 100%
- Appropriate initial bolus and infusion doses: 100%
- Appropriate adjustment doses: 88.9%
- Time to therapeutic aPTT: 12.68 hours [6 to 30 hours]
- Signs or symptoms of bleeding or bruising: None
- Total Progress Notes: 68

References: