Improving Resuscitation Area Documentation: A Joint Project between Trauma Services and the Emergency Department

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What is the problem or challenge you identified?
It was identified that the trauma flow sheet did not accurately reflect the delivery of care or provide a sequential account of the patient’s encounter in the resuscitation bay.

Issues identified:
- Time stamping
- Real Time Documentation
- Inability to extract accurate data from the Trauma Registry
- Lack of required resuscitation area documentation

Describe the intervention you developed/change you implemented to address the problem:
A team was developed consisting of Trauma Services, ED Management, and Bedside Trauma Nursing.

Proposed recommendations for improvement:
- Revise Trauma Recorder
- Develop a Trauma Alert Documentation Resource Tool
- Create an Emergency Department Trauma Data Dictionary for each required field
- Provide Ad Hoc, One on One Training, and Formal Lectures prior to implementation
- Develop an Audit Tool to identify opportunities for improvement, monitor outcomes and overall compliance

How did you measure the effects of the change?
Utilized the Audit Tool to measure the compliance in the documentation standards. A percentage was calculated for overall compliance and for the individual areas for mandatory documentation. If an area fell below 95% this was then watched for the next three months. If no improvement was noted of the three months then a drill was performed to assist in deciding a specific action plan to improve compliance.

How did you sustain the change?
- Monitoring will continue for a minimum of twelve months
- Monthly reports of overall compliance and individual drill downs will be presented at the monthly ED Staff Meetings and the Multi- Disciplinary Committee
- Data points not meeting the threshold for three consecutive months will be re-evaluated for possible improvement
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