Delirium NICE CG103 critical care network audit: Is the standard of 100% of patients in Intensive Care being assessed, as set by the Core Standards for Intensive Care Units (2013)?

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Method
- An audit of practice was done.
- A questionnaire was developed, based on the standards and guidelines by the ICS and NICE CG103.
- The questionnaire was reviewed by the local network leads, who agreed the appropriateness of the questions and method of data collection.
- A snapshot audit, sampling ten patients at random was undertaken.

Results
- A total of 10 trusts (53%) out of a possible 19 across the network responded to the audit.
- Out of the ten trusts, 8 had a delirium screening tool available for use. Of these 8 trusts, 7 use the Confusion Assessment Method for ICU (CAM-ICU) and one use the Intensive Care Delirium Screen Checklist (ICDSC) (see table 1.0).
- The audit shows that the network is not meeting the national standard of 100% of patients in ICU being screened for delirium.
- Of the 8 trusts that responded 7 have agreed a tool or pathway for assessing patients, giving an 88% compliance to the national standard.
- Only 65% of 80 patients audited within 8 trusts were actually screened. It is difficult due to the assumed variability between departments within the network, to ascertain why 34% of patients hadn’t been assessed, even though a pathway or tool was available.
- Of the 8 trusts with tools, 3 of them identified that the patients not assessed had not been appropriate for assessment.
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- The standard is 100% of patients in ICU are assessed for delirium.
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- Of the 8 trusts with tools, 3 of them identified that the patients not assessed had not been appropriate for assessment.
- Delirium Screen Checklist (ICDSC) (see table 1.0). No other tools had been identified from across the network.
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- Not all trusts in the network use the same model.
- Training and education of clinical staff with a standardised tool would allow a platform for a generic teaching programme raising the profile of delirium and improve standards of care within the network.
- Of the 8 trusts with tools, 3 of them identified that the patients not assessed had not been appropriate for assessment.
- The network is currently not meeting the national standard of 100% screening of patients for delirium in ICU.
- Further in depth auditing is required to explore the number of variables that impact screening.
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