Manitoba
Health, Healthy Living and Seniors

Manitoba Health, Healthy Living & Seniors (MHHLS) supports reporting and learning from patient safety events. The focus of a patient safety review is to closely look at the health care system that surrounds and interacts with those giving and receiving care. The goal is to identify risks to patient safety and recommend the most effective ways to minimize risk and improve the delivery of healthcare.

Patient Safety Learning Advisory

Discharge Instructions in the Emergency Department

A pregnant woman was known to be a carrier of Hemophilia. When her child was born, testing was performed for Hemophilia. The child was diagnosed with Hemophilia Type A.

Five days following delivery, the child had a PKU test performed on the left heel. A bandage was applied following the test by the laboratory technician. The child continued to bleed from the test site. The physician was notified of the bleeding.

The Hematologist suggested the application of a pressure dressing to the site. A pressure dressing was applied using gauze and Co-Flex tape; it was successful in stopping the bleeding from the site. The child was discharged home with his mother.

Three days later, the mother returned to the Emergency Department with complaints of a swollen, red left foot and a pressure ulcer on the dorsum of left foot and ankle. Both the child and his mother were transferred out to an urban hospital for treatment.

Keywords:

Documentation, discharge planning

Device Name *(if applicable)*:

Drug/Name/Fluid Name: (*if applicable*):

Type of Analysis: single event

Topic: Other

Findings of the Review:

The nurse had instructed the parents to return to the Emergency Department (ED) if they noticed any changes to the color of the child's foot or if there was any further bleeding.

While the discharge teaching was provided, it was not documented on the health record.

System Learning:

Provide education on the importance of accurately documenting patient teaching and discharge instructions on the discharge education form; this is in keeping with regulatory body standards.

Develop a learning tool to educate and update staff regarding current required documentation standards and potential liability issues when documentation is incomplete.

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