

2020 ANNA NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

A Quality Improvement Project: Develop Formal Educational Protocol on Pre-Renal Transplant Education for Patients and Families

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Background: The Kids' Kidney Center provides care to pediatric patients diagnosed with Chronic Kidney Disease, dialysis and transplant follow-up. These patients are referred to a transplant center in our area. Successful kidney transplantation is dependent on a host of elements. Allograft survival rates in the adolescent population remains the highest risk of allograft failure. To be successful, the renal transplantation requires adherence to a multitude of factors that many recipients are ill-prepared to undertake. Transplantation is a team effort wherein the recipient is the key player. The relationship between the referring clinic and the transplant center is a critical one. It is an ongoing, dynamic process of communication and education. It was observed that patients and families needed increased education on the transplant process.

Purpose: When patients attend the transplant interview, they often travel long distances to meet the transplant team and leave with only a day of education in the process. We began looking at our overall transplant education process, believing that one day was not enough to secure successful transplant outcomes. We began the development of a pre-renal transplant educational policy to engage our patients and parents in the transplant learning process prior to the transplant referral and increase post-transplant renal allograft survival rates.

Method: The policy and subsequent education involves a multidisciplinary team. The unit developed a formal education program that enveloped all disciplines each providing a list of topics and testing that they were required to complete before being referred for transplant.

Results: The project was initiated after several months of development. A formal department protocol was established and introduced on several nephrology patients. Evaluation is ongoing, our current allograft survival rate is at a high of 96%.

Abstract selected for presentation at 2020 ANNA National Symposium