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DESCRIPTION

Surge describes the influx of paediatric patients based on the Ministry of Health's predictions regarding influenza, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus. Staffing for this can be a challenge – it has been mandated that all paediatric inpatient units create infrastructure to accommodate up to 120% bed capacity.

The Nursing Resource Team (NRT) at Humber River Health (HRH) has been leveraged successfully to support the Paediatrics team through the 2023/24 surge, though there is typically a knowledge gap for this specialty area. With consideration to this, a new collaborative orientation program was successfully developed for last year's surge to address this specifically.

OBJECTIVE

To develop a Paediatrics orientation curriculum that builds on the NRT knowledge and skill-set.

ACTIONS TAKEN

Close collaboration was required with the NRT Clinical Practice Leader (CPL) to create curriculum materials (i.e. orientation presentations, collaborative education documents), while tailoring it to the Paediatrics perspective. A focus on the respiratory system was taken, including appropriate interventions and escalations. It was then customized with further stakeholder input and ultimately implemented by the Paediatrics CPL with the 2023-24 NRT team supporting Paediatrics. At the conclusion of the didactic education, feedback was then solicited from these learners by the Paediatrics leadership team.



Maternal & Child Program

NRT: Children's Inpatient Unit Orientation 2024

Case Reviews

To optimize your learning through your preceptorship and orientation process, you will be asked to reflect on your patient assignments using the provided form. For each new diagnosis, we ask that you complete this in point form or have a discussion with your preceptor/CPL (and document that you did this). The list of diagnosis is most likely what you will encounter and should ask to have exposure to over the orientation preceptorship.

Figure 1. An example of one of the adapted materials for this NRT-CIU orientation.



Figure 2. Slides from Orientation Presentation.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Successful integration into the main Paediatrics team required manager and CPL reinforcement in highlighting the value of this additional support, team-building, and communication. The verbal feedback received from the NRT staff was highly positive. Paediatrics was a specialized area that this particular NRT team had no previous exposure to, thus 100% of them reported that this modified curriculum helped to build on existing knowledge, skills, and judgment in a supportive and engaging manner.

LESSONS LEARNED

A thoughtful orientation program and stakeholder support is necessary to provide and sustain exceptional patient care, especially during instances of surge.

