Instructional Tools for Baclofen Pump Education

Background

- Many consumers living with an Intrathecal Baclofen Pump (ITB) live in rural areas and information about ITB care and complications is limited.
- Call centers triage numerous calls about alarms and how to care for someone with a pump.
- As inclusion continues to evolve along with advancements in healthcare technologies, there are situations in which “just in time” type training is needed for caregivers.
- With a new Personal Care Attendant (PCA), a consumer moving, or staff turnover in group homes, hand-off communication may be incomplete.
- An evidence based easy to access educational tool is needed.

Proposed Educational Tool

- Develop a multifaceted tool that can cater to multiple learning styles.
  - Video for auditory learners, such as a barcode on educational tools to allow it to be accessed electronically.
  - Laminated card with trouble shooting tips as visual reference

Quick Reference Tool

- Complications:
  - Redness, drainage/pus, fever, need for dosage adjustment.
  - Baclofen adds to effects of alcohol and other depressant medications (i.e. antihistamines, sleep medications, pain medications)

Common causes of temporary tone changes:
- Illness, pain, PMS, constipation/gastritis, fracture, stress

Emergency Management/Troubleshooting:
- Check if oral Baclofen or Valium are available for patient.
- Record date/time alarm sounded, contact provider/24hr. Nurse line.
- Signs of withdrawal get worse hourly: itching, twitching, “pins & needles”

Activity limitations:
- Keep cell phones/magnets at least 1 ft. away.
- No hot tubs, scuba diving
- Caution with transferring patient.
- Use abdominal binder if needed.
- Air travel is allowed.
- MRI/CT scans are safe.
- Contact provider if therapeutic ultrasound is indicated.

Competency Tool

- Competency Tool will be developed to measure understanding for nursing/care-giving staff before beginning care of patients with Baclofen pumps. Facilities may be encouraged to incorporate this as an annual competency.
- Self-test to assess knowledge level about ITB and learning completed or need for remediation.
- The following questions will be assessed using a teach-back technique (having caregiver verbalize understanding):
  - What are some indications for a Baclofen pump?
  - What are common signs and symptoms of withdrawal?
  - What are appropriate actions to take when pump alarm sounds?

The Next Steps

Utilize Plan Do Study Act Model of Change:
- PLAN-Discuss implementation of educational tool with the following stakeholders: Hospital that installed pump, group home, on-call nurse triage line, and educators for staff at both sites.
- DO-Try tool out for 6 months with group home and a assess knowledge gained by group home staff through a small questionnaire given by educators.
- STUDY-Assess efficacy through questionnaire assessment before and after tool implementation as well as through measurement of calls to nurse triage line. Seek input from both hospital and group home staff about response to tool and suggestions for improvement.
- ACT-if tool proves effective incorporate use into statewide policy for group home and hospital. Make adjustments to tool based on feedback.

Quick Reference Card

(Reference Pocket Card)

Quick Reference for Intrathecal Baclofen Pumps (ITB)

(QR Code)

Quick Reference Card

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Conclusion

- Through implementation of these tools and resources, we hope to improve the safety and quality of life for those who utilize Baclofen pumps.
- By increasing provider and caregiver awareness and education, clients will be better managed regarding maintenance, troubleshooting, and handling emergencies pertaining to ITB therapy.

References


For more information...

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