**Problem**
Pharmacologic dilation of the pupils for retinal examination is an important part of the ophthalmologic exam. However, dilation of the pupils can cause confounding of the neurologic exam if the examiner is not aware of dilation, and can lead to unnecessary further workup looking for an etiology. This project was developed to increase awareness that at patient’s pupils have been dilated amongst all caregivers for that patient using a tool developed for this cause, the Inpatient Dilation Order Form.

**Goal**
To increase the use of the inpatient dilation protocol to 90% of new inpatient consultations placed in 3 out of 4 quarters. This will ensure that the entire team caring for a patient knows that a patient's eyes have been dilated and that pupil dilation is clearly documented in the chart.

**Plan**
Ophthalmology residents performing inpatient consultations will place the Inpatient Dilation Order form in the chart for all new adult inpatient consultations from July 1, 2011 to May 30, 2012. Residents will be made aware of the plan and progress through announcements via email and at weekly resident meetings.

**Results**

### Use of Dilation Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Number of New Consults</th>
<th>Number of Charts Reviewed</th>
<th>Percent with Dilation Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (7/1/11 to 9/30/11)</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (10/1/11 to 12/31/11)</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (1/1/12 to 3/31/12)</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (4/1/12 to 5/30/12)</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pending</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Compliance increased every quarter.
- Lag in adoption of form at beginning secondary to confusion in proper dilation protocol.
- Q4 results still pending review

### Consult Characteristics

- An interesting benefit from this project is that it allowed us to look at consult volume.
- Overall, 763 unique consultations were seen by ophthalmology during the study period.
- 201 of these were seen by the Neuro-ophthalmology/Pediatric service, most of these were pediatric consultations.
- Overall consult volume decreased quarterly.

**Challenges & Lessons Learned**
This project met a massive challenge almost immediately, when its proposal triggered a review of the ophthalmology department’s administration of eyedrops to inpatients. This triggered a great deal of confusion about what the proper order protocol was amongst the ophthalmology residents and faculty, and it was advised that the residents continue with their old consult routine until the controversy was resolved. This decreased use of the order form until an updated form was issued in February 2012. Providing resident-specific feedback on use of the form increased compliance from Q2 to Q3, and likely will into Q4.

**Moving Forward**
The Inpatient Eye Dilation form has been rendered moot by the introduction of APEX. The ophthalmology consult service will switch to using an APEX Order Set for placing eye dilation orders.

The Department of Ophthalmology remains committed to Quality improvement, and all residents currently must undertake 2 QI projects in order to graduate from residency.

**Conclusions**
This QI project initially met with a large challenge that decreased its efficacy. However, once the confusion regarding the hospital’s dilation policy was resolved, compliance with the order form increased to its goal, thanks to help from the ophthalmology residents.