Resident-Led Patient Stroke Education
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The Problem
Stroke is a leading cause of death and disability. Thrombolytic agents can reduce disability from ischemic stroke if given quickly, yet most patients present too late due to poor awareness of both symptoms and the emergent need for treatment. Physicians are uniquely situated to address this knowledge gap, but rarely spend enough time teaching.

Project Goal
- To provide physician-to-patient education regarding symptoms of stroke to all hospitalized neurology patients
- To document this teaching in >70% of discharge summaries in 3 of 4 quarters
- To encourage patients to share this knowledge with others in the community and thereby increase public awareness

Project Plan
- Sent monthly emails to residents reminding them to provide teaching
- Created Apex phrase for residents to document who was taught and when
- Produced teaching materials for use and distribution
- Reviewed charts of all patients discharged from service to ensure teaching and documentation

Results
- Residents educated 44% of eligible inpatients in quarter 1 (July-Sept), 80% of eligible patients in quarter 2, and 78% of patients in quarter 3
- The only months below goal (<70%) were during the scale-up phase (12% in July and 48% in August)
- Formal resident-to-patient stroke education rates increased substantially from the baseline rate of 0%

Lessons Learned
- It is possible to increase rates of physician-led stroke education
- Neurology residents can provide stroke teaching to patients regardless of whether or not patients had a stroke
- Frequent reminders increase rates of physician-led stroke education
- Residents are enthusiastic about improving public awareness of stroke and the benefit of thrombolytics

Future Goals
- To continue to provide stroke education material in the resident room to support verbal teaching
- To include a checkbox in the discharge summary as a reminder to provide stroke teaching to all patients
- To stress the benefits of stroke education to rotating non-neurology residents and encourage formal teaching
- To quantify the benefit of this program by comparing stroke knowledge after discharge between stroke and non-stroke neurology patients (who have been taught) and non-neurology patients (who have not been formally taught)