

An Emergency Department's Path to Geriatric Accreditation

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Introduction

The national VA emergency management program office and geriatric emergency department (ED) core team invited facilities across the nation to apply for the Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (GEDA). Aligning with VA Portland Health Care System (VAPORHCS) facility and ED leadership's 2023 strategic goals, a team was formed and begin work. The GEDA's accrediting body, American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) strives to ensure every ED affords older patients informed care accounting for their unique needs.

Objectives

- Discuss initial requirements to achieve GEDA
- Impart how gaps in geriatric care were determined and addressed
- Share how data is used to improve compliance

Methods

The team utilized a systematic approach to review current state and outline the desired future state with evidence-based best practices relating to urinary catheter minimization, NPO status minimization, restraint use compliance and fall mobility assessment. Initial review validated current facility policies and identified gaps regarding unique geriatric needs. Next unit specific standard work documents were written for each care process. The mobility assessment was new, so the team developed a workflow, new order bundle and signage for fall prevention plus an outpatient consult pathway. A comprehensive educational plan was presented to staff prior to roll out.

Results

The data analyst built a dashboard for each care processes: Urinary catheter minimization (number of foley catheter placement notes and corresponding order); NPO status minimization (number of NPO orders); Restraint use compliance, found through current hospital data collection and reporting; and Fall prevention (number of STEADI screens, number of ED falls and number of consults).

Conclusions

Through formalizing some and implementing new processes our geriatric team was able to celebrate current practices and embrace the need for new geriatric nuances. The team was able to work together to evaluate the formalized care processes and using the newly developed data Power BI application to improve staff compliance and, determine if care is ultimately improved.

References

[Home | Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation \(acep.org\)](#)

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