

**Quality Improvement; A qualitative study of Pediatric Early Warning Systems in  
Pediatric Oncology hospitals.**

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## **Quality improvement; A qualitative study of Pediatric Early Warning Systems in Pediatric Oncology hospitals**

The use of data to monitor the outcomes of care processes and use improvement methods to design and test changes to continuously improve the quality and safety of healthcare systems is among one of the top priorities for quality improvement (QSEN Institute, 2020). The healthcare community must examine strategies for improving systems to support team functioning to improve upon the way things are currently done (QSEN Institute, 2020). This can be don't by demonstrating the effective use of technology and standardized practices that support safety and quality (QSEN Institute, 2020). The Pediatric Early Warning Systems (PEWS) is an evaluation system that has been tested in two pediatric oncology hospitals and involves every level of the care team in hopes of improving response to declining conditions (Graetz et al., 2020).

### **Article Summary**

The main idea of this study is to educate people on the PEWS system and the ability to more quickly evaluate and respond to a patient whose conditions is deteriorating (Graetz et al., 2020). Multiple departments are involved in the response to a pediatric oncology patient, this system is put in place so that the patients nurse can rapidly alert all departments involved if the conditions worsens so they are able to get them the help they need faster (Graetz et al., 2020). It is possible that the PEWS system can improve the response time and care for those pediatric oncology patients (Graetz et al., 2020).

### **Introduction**

This article is a qualitative study of Pediatric Early Warning Systems in Pediatric Oncology hospital (Graetz et al., 2020). This article explains how this system can be beneficial in giving a patient who is deteriorating faster and more effective care. It is related to quality improvement because by alerting the entire care team at the same time decisions can be made more quickly and efficiently (Graetz et al., 2020).

## **Overview**

Pediatric early warning systems (PEWS) is an evaluation system tested in two pediatric oncology hospitals in hopes of improving response to declining conditions. The PEWS system was tested at Unidad Nacional de Oncologia Pediatrica (UNOP) in Guatemala as well as St Jude Children's Research hospital (SJCRH) in Memphis, Tn. Their goal is to find out by utilizing the PEWS system if it is a better way for the care team to be aware of the patient's status and be better able to respond appropriately using the automatic updates. The use of this system was overall a success with a few details that would need to be worked out. More success was shown in the UNOP facility than in SJCRH (Graetz et al., 2020).

## **Quality Improvement**

The goal of this article is for Quality Improvement of the pediatric oncology department's ability to notify multiple providers at the same time if a patient's condition deteriorates (Graetz et al., 2020). UNOP is in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and has a childhood cancer survival rate of approximately 65%. UNOP treats 50% of Guatemalan children with cancer (500 new cancer diagnoses per year) and houses a 9-bed pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) with 300-400

admissions per year. Staffing includes 4 intensivists and approximately 1 oncologist for every 66 newly diagnosed patients per year. SJCRH is in Memphis, TN, and has a childhood cancer survival rate of greater than 80%. SJCRH treats 500 to 600 newly diagnosed cancer patients annually and has a 12-bed PICU with 350 to 400 annual admissions. SJCRH has greater than 40 treating oncologists, with approximately 1 oncologist for < 15 new diagnoses, and 8 intensivists (Graetz et al., 2020). With this many staff and team members, it can be critical in saving a child's life if the response and decision time can be quickened by using the PEWS system.

### **Application to Nursing**

Here add in a summary of the information learned to the application to practice. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com. Be sure to cover all aspects within the rubric. Be sure to use double space and to tab over for your first line of a new paragraph.

### **Practice**

Paragraph goes here discussing the application to practice. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

### **Education**

Paragraph goes here discussing the application to education. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

### **Research**

Paragraph goes here discussing the application of research. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

### **Conclusion**

Write a conclusion here in your overall paper. Review the rubric for full requirements. Follow the MEAL paragraph formatting and use Grammarly.com.

### **References**

Graetz, D., Kaye, E., Garza, M., Ferrara, G., Rodriguez, M., Vasquez, D., Aceituno, A., Antillon-Klussmann, F., Gatusso, J., Mandrell, B., Baker, J., Rodriguez-Galindo, C., Mack, J., Agulnik, A. (2020). Qualitative study of pediatric early warning systems' impact on interdisciplinary communication in two pediatric oncology hospitals with varying resources, *JCO Glob Oncol*, 6, 1079-1086. <https://doi.org/10.1200/GO.20.00163>

QSEN Institute (2020). *QSEN competencies*.

[https://qsen.org/competencies/pre-licensure-ksas/#quality\\_improvement](https://qsen.org/competencies/pre-licensure-ksas/#quality_improvement)