

Diabetic emergencies

Project aims

1. Ultimately we have a goal to become a Hypo free hospital
2. Reduce number of Severe Hypoglycemic Episodes (Capillary blood glucose levels <3) in people with diabetes during hospital admission
3. Treat hypoglycemia correctly
4. Reduce length of stay of patients with diabetes

Timeline for delivery

From: April 2019

To: August 2020

Measures

Diabetes In-Patient team recognised that significant number of patients were experiencing severe hypoglycemic episodes (SHE) during hospital stay. Besides the numbers, the management was inappropriate with inadequate monitoring. We also felt that some of the SHEs were avoidable. Sometimes SHE was not even recognised as the patient looked well. Our aim of this QIP is:

1. 25% reduction in the number of SHE
2. Reduction in the duration of hypoglycemia that the patient feel
3. Reduction in glucagon use
4. Reduce length of stay (LOS) of the patients with diabetes

Tests for change

- Introduced hypoboxes in all in-patient areas included the Emergency Department
- Increased visibility of performance related data and information
- Targeted communication, engagement and learning and development



Project team

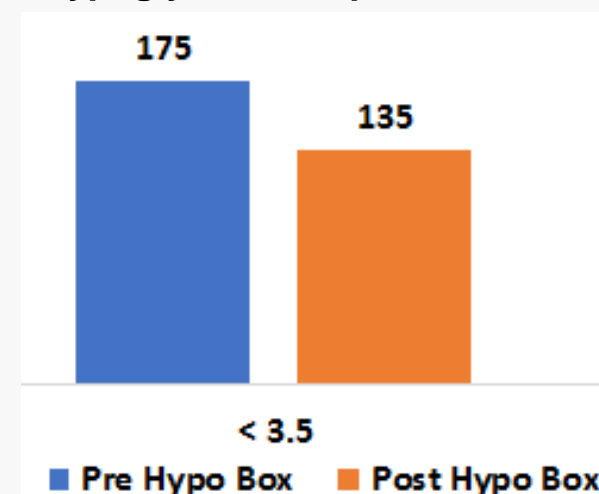
- Diabetes In Patient team Lead: Ranjna Garg
- Diabetes In Patient specialist Nurse: Shally Biju
- Diabetes Dietician: Nicola Maguire-Smith
- Quality First Team

Results

Number of recorded hypoglycaemic episode remained similar; however the number of Severe Hypoglycaemic Episode decreased indicating:

- Early recognition
- Better treatment
- Quicker recovery to correction

Overall we have seen a 23% reduction in Severe Hypoglycaemic Episodes



Learning and next steps

- We have learnt that a multidisciplinary team approach is key to getting engagement in change.
- We have completed a root cause analysis and developing a driver diagram to inform our focus for tests of change.

