Anticoagulation RNs will Demonstrate Competence & Consistency in Practice

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Background
Anticoagulation management should utilize a standardized, best-practice approach to produce high quality outcomes with less risk to the patient. Current practice had multiple areas that needed improvement.
- RNs are to follow specific protocols for warfarin and heparin management which are based on the CHEST Guidelines (under direct physician supervision)
- Initial training consisted of an online class not specifically designed for RNs
- No standardized resources during orientation
- Inconsistencies in practice remained, protocols were not being followed, and documentation varied by site
- There are 43 Anticoagulation Clinic sites

Approach
- A DNP student partnered with education to develop 3 online modules. They included:
  - Hemostasis: Physiology & Pathophysiology
  - Anticoagulation Drugs & Protocols
  - Patient Education & Engagement Strategies
- RN attends an in-person class focusing on:
  - RN scope of practice for ambulatory care
  - Ambulatory anticoagulation clinic protocols
  - Documentation in the EMR
  - Resources
  - Patient scenarios and workflow

Results
- 67 RNs have completed the training and passed the test
- The RNs were provided with updated RN orientation checklists, incorporating the Scope and Standards of Practice for Professional Ambulatory Care Nursing
- Cost savings to organization is approximately $1,000 per RN

Discussion

- Patients managed by RNs in anticoagulation clinics have:
  - INRs monitored more frequently
  - Therapeutic range achieved more often
  - Evaluation of education shows:
    - 97% thought that the education provided foundational knowledge
    - 96% would be able to apply what they learned on the job
  - The education created consistency and best practice implementation

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References