Closing the Communication Loop on Intrathecal Pump Interrogation Studies

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Background

In conjunction with industry representatives, the Neuroradiology Department at MUSC provides the service of image-guided intrathecal pump interrogation for referring providers.

This procedure entails accessing the medication reservoir of the pump with a needle/syringe, aspirating to empty the medication reservoir and ensure patency of the system, then injecting contrast under fluoroscopy to confirm appropriate intrathecal positioning of the catheter tip.

Verbal communication of results to the referring provider was previously not the standard or care for neuroradiology – results were informed via written radiological report on patient's chart. Unfortunately, in prior instances, findings were note seen in timely fashion and patients had been left without appropriate follow up.

It was decided that verbal communication with the clinical team by the end of the procedure could help clinical management regardless of the outcome of the study. In the event that the pump is malfunctioning, timely intervention may be necessary. Alternatively, if the device is functioning, the patient may require alternative management and therefore timely clinical follow up.

AIM Statement

Between September 2022 and March 2023, over 90% of baclofen pump interrogation study results will have been communicated with the referring provider at the time of examination.

MUSC Pillar Goals

Quality – Increase inpatient quality of care

Closing the communication loop – between Radiologist and referring provider

Intervention/Methods

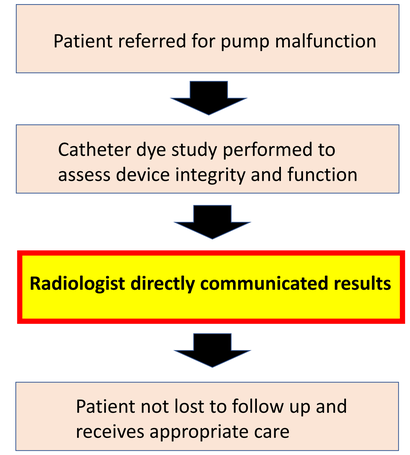
All physicians in the Neuroradiology division, including 8 attending physicians and 4 neuroradiology fellows, as well as the division's Nurse Practitioner, were reminded via monthly email to verbally communicate every result on baclofen pump studies at the time or procedure.

Compliance was then measured by screening study reports for appropriate documentation of results with the referring clinician.

Results

Performance period between 9/10/2022 and 2/28/2023:

9 catheter dye studies with 100% compliance.



Conclusions

After implementation of quality improvement intervention, 100% compliance was achieved over 9 studies and no further patient incidents were reported.