Nursing and patient education initiative to support cardiac electronic implantable device practice

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Introduction
The project was developed to address a need for education resources regarding cardiac implantable electronic devices (CIEDs) for both patients and nurses at The Heart Centre at St. Paul’s Hospital. Two resources were developed, a guide for nurses and a teaching tool for patient education.

The nurses working on 5A/B at St. Paul’s were introduced to the tools during pocket rounds, in-services and through the educator. After three months of the tools being released on the ward, nurses were surveyed to assess the tools.

The initiative and survey results were presented during the scientific meeting of the Canadian Council of Cardiovascular Nurses (CCCN) in October, 2011. The tools were reviewed and accepted as a suitable resource for use on the ward as educational tools.

Procedure observation days were arranged to facilitate knowledge development through patient experiences with CIED implantation.

Brochures have been developed to reflect Heart Centre policies and procedures, as well as replace discontinued industry patient information brochures.

CIED Resources
The resources developed outline the preparation for device implantation procedures as well as important information for the patient’s return home after implantation.

The patient guide was available to be used by nurses in their education of patients as teaching point prompts, and the additional resource specifically for nurses offered additional background information, an example of the shock plan, video resources and frequently asked questions.

The resources are available on 5A/B as well as in the CCU.

Figure 1. Image of the teaching guide resource available to nurses regarding the information in the patient teaching guide.

Survey Results
A survey conducted with nurses on St. Paul’s Hospital 5A/B in The Heart Centre concluded the resources were a beneficial resource for patient education. Improvement could be made upon nurse education regarding the devices and patient care at home could be expanded. As well, discharge guidelines were needed. Further, nurses concluded patients require information booklets to take home.

CCCN Presentation
Challenges in patient education, the patient resources, and the survey results were presented at the Canadian Council of Cardiovascular Nurses annual congress.

Figure 2. The program for CCCN with the description of the CCO. Care session held by Sandra Lauck and Meghan Barnhart. With Contribution by Jerome Pudliccione.

The session was presented to a full room of nurses engaged in cardiovascular nursing across Canada. The question period brought forward engaging questions and knowledge sharing of patient education experiences, techniques and resources, all of which have helped to shape the next steps of the initiative.

Image 1. Meghan Barnhart presenting to the CCCN at the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress.

Observations
To further enhance patient experience understanding, Meghan Barnhart observed device implantation following the patient through the process of being admitted, going through the procedure, and later entering into post surgical care. The experience was utilized in the development of discharge planning and patient education booklets.

Figure 3. Page 1 of standardized device discharge guidelines.

Future Direction
The initiative will continue to grow and develop. The ward-based education tools will be reviewed by a committee and become official documents of The Heart Centre.

The discharge guidelines will be reviewed by a committee to determine the applicability of the guidelines in practice.

The patient education booklets will be completed and further developed by the patient education team, as well as being reviewed by patients who have undergone procedures. The booklets are intended to replace the industry booklets that will no longer be produced due to the development of online information resources.

A device education session will be held for nurses working in The Heart Centre as well as in the Critical Care Unit. The session addresses the desire for an resource regarding devices brought forward in the survey. The resource will involve how devices function, the indications for device implantation and the electrophysiology behind the devices. A nurse from the device clinic will be leading the discussion.

Acknowledgments
I would like to thank Sandra Lauck for her time, advice and guidance throughout this project. Not only has she positively impacted the quality of nursing care at the Heart Centre, but she has reinforced in me what it means to be a nurse. I would also like to thank Marie McCoy for her support and energy in promoting this initiative.

For further information
Please contact ntrp@ubc.ca or visit The Heart Centre website http://www.heartcentre.ca/