

Population of Pediatric Cardiac Patients in Non-Cardiac Specialization Units

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Research Question

Determine the changing population of Pediatric Cardiology off-specialty service areas (inpatient service locations outside of the Pediatric Cardiology Inpatient Units).

Introduction

MCJCHV has had several substantive changes over the last several years. The Pediatric Cardiology units have changed unit locations and sizes with hospital expansions. Despite having more pediatric cardiology inpatient beds with expansions, patients have had to be admitted to units outside of the standard cardiac units. An analysis of this overflow population to non-cardiac inpatient units has not been established.

Materials and Methods

Note entries were utilized as a surrogate as they are standardized in the inpatient population for history and physical, consultation and progress notes. An annual sequel-based report was created in the electronic health record for cardiology service line notes. These inpatient service line reports were then stacked from 2019 through June 30, 2023 in a single Excel spreadsheet. Data on author type, note type, patient location and was also gathered. The results were then transcribed into an encrypted Excel dashboard, complete with slicer-dicer capabilities for ad hoc analysis by the requestors and administrative teams.

Results

The report pulled data for 46632 inpatient cardiology notes of which progress notes was the highest number of followed by almost equal number of H&P and consults notes. Results show a stable number of notes for the 4 ½ year period (extrapolating for half year in 2023). However, the data also shows a decrease in the number of patients admitted to the 6th and 7th floor units (6a, 6b, 6c, 7a, 7b, 7c) and a substantial increase in patients admitted to 8th floor units (8a, 8b, 8c). Interestingly, both the number of overflow patients and total notes written dropped 2020 suggesting a potential overflow tipping point at ~8000 notes/year.

Implications

There has been an increase in the number of Pediatric Cardiology notes written for patients located in non-cardiac units. With the exception of year 2020, the number of off-unit patients is increasing annually with a large increase expected in 2023. With this increase, it might be beneficial to review the onloading and annual education requirements to these units to ensure staff have the proper training to care for the population swing in the affected units.

Thanks:

This analysis could not have been done without the assistance of the Epic Order Analyst team.

