Improving communication and care in the PICU for children with disabilities

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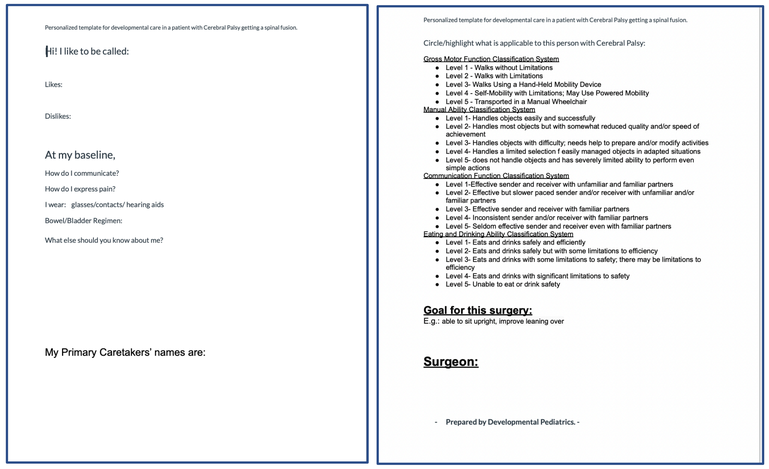
Introduction

- Roughly 20-25% of children with Cerebral Palsy (CP) will develop scoliosis
- Risk is higher in children with CP with total body involvement
- Treatment can include posterior spinal fusions to correct this due to the impingement on lung volumes
- Children with cerebral palsy frequently admitted to the PICU after spinal fusions
- It is important that all team members are aware of developmental age and function of the patient at baseline to improve recovery after surgery
- Average PICU length of stay (LOS) in these patients is 5-8 days and they are at high risk of complications, including pneumonia, thromboembolic events, and sepsis.
- Risk of complications is higher with longer LOS

Objective

- To develop a developmental communication tool for complex pediatric complex spinal surgery patients that receive postoperative care in the pediatric intensive care unit

Developmental Communication Tool for Complex Spine Patients:



Personalized template for developmental care in a patient with Cerebral Palsy getting a spinal fusion.

Hi! I like to be called:

Likes:

Dislikes:

At my baseline,

How do I communicate?

How do I express pain?

I wear: glasses/contacts/ hearing aids

Bowel/Bladder Regimen:

What else should you know about me?

My Primary Caretakers' names are:

Personalized template for developmental care in a patient with Cerebral Palsy getting a spinal fusion.

Circle/highlight what is applicable to this person with Cerebral Palsy:

Gross Motor Function Classification System
- Level 1 - Walks without Limitations
- Level 2 - Walks with Limitations
- Level 3- Walks Using a Hand-Held Mobility Device
- Level 4 - Self-Mobility with Limitations; May Use Powered Mobility
- Level 5 - Transported in a Manual Wheelchair

Manual Ability Classification System
- Level 1- Handles objects easily and successfully
- Level 2- Handles most objects but with somewhat reduced quality and/or speed of achievement
- Level 3- Handles objects with difficulty; needs help to prepare and/or modify activities
- Level 4- Handles a limited selection f easily managed objects in adapted situations
- Level 5- does not handle objects and has severely limited ability to perform even simple actions

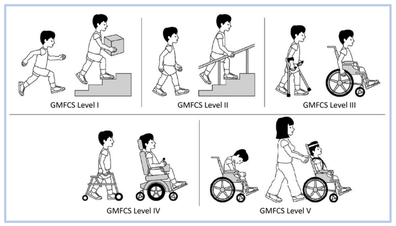
Communication Function Classification System
- Level 1-Effective sender and receiver with unfamiliar and familiar partners
- Level 2- Effective but slower paced sender and/or receiver with unfamiliar and/or familiar partners
- Level 3- Effective sender and receiver with familiar partners
- Level 4- Inconsistent sender and/or receiver with familiar partners
- Level 5- Seldom effective sender and receiver even with familiar partners

Eating and Drinking Ability Classification System
- Level 1- Eats and drinks safely and efficiently
- Level 2- Eats and drinks safely but with some limitations to efficiency
- Level 3- Eats and drinks with some limitations to safety; there may be limitations to efficiency
- Level 4- Eats and drinks with significant limitations to safety
- Level 5- Unable to eat or drink safely

Goal for this surgery:
E.g.: able to sit upright, improve leaning over

Surgeon:

- Prepared by Developmental Pediatrics. -



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Methods

- Complex care spinal surgery patients are evaluated in the complex care clinic preoperatively
- Identified need for clear communication between outpatient and inpatient teams
- Collaboration between interdisciplinary providers (complex care providers, orthopedics, nursing, child life, therapists, and intensivists) to identify key developmental information that should be provided between inpatient and outpatient teams
- A communication tool was created after feedback was provided by interdisciplinary team members

Next Steps

- We will pilot the new communication tool on the next pediatric complex spinal surgery patient
- LOS and complications will be monitored
- Ongoing feedback will be obtained from interdisciplinary team members
- Feedback will be obtained from parents and caregivers
- Reiterations of the communication tool will be performed if needed.

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