Using Clinical Technology in EPIC to Impact Malnutrition Reimbursement

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DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT: CREATING HEALTH THROUGH NUTRITION – To provide medical nutrition therapy along the continuum of care using technology, interdisciplinary collaboration, research and evidenced based practice.

OBJECTIVE

- With the introduction of the computerized charting system Epic at LVHN, we were experiencing variations in each dietitian's nutrition assessment documentation, which resulted in decreased efficiency.
- This limited the amount of time for direct patient care and decreased time for project work.
- Our team determined that our project would be successful if we could make a 20% reduction in charting time.

DESIGN/METHOD

- Charting time measured pre- and post-countermeasures.
- Team feedback and suggested improvements were implemented.
- Documentation was streamlined to eliminate duplication and the team developed an intricate understanding of smart list and smart phrase capabilities available in Epic. Working closely with Epic content designers, new clinical nutrition assessment templates were created.
- Dietitians collaborated with Epic designers to create over sixty smart lists, smart phrases and smart links with an average of one-third used per assessment.

RESULTS

- Time savings as follows:
  - 60% for generalist assessments
  - 52% for ICU assessments
  - 25% for TPN team assessments
- **Potential for 76% revenue increase related to increased malnutrition identification**

ASSESSMENTS	PRE-COUNTERMEASURE		POST-COUNTERMEASURE	
	Best time	**Worst time**	**Best time**	**Worst time**
GENERALIST	10 minutes	40 minutes	4 minutes	25 minutes
ICU	21 minutes	32 minutes	10 minutes	21.5 minutes
TPN TEAM	20 minutes	40 minutes	15 minutes	25 minutes

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