

In Patients with Telemetry Monitoring, will Educational Sessions with Registered Nurses Reduce the Incidence of the Patient Disconnecting Themselves from the Monitoring Unit?

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Back ground

- Close telemetry monitoring in the acute care patient enables monitor techs and nursing staff to identify and detect any changes in cardiac functioning.
- By educating employees and improving compliance with remaining connected to the monitors, we improve patient safety and outcomes.

Practice Change

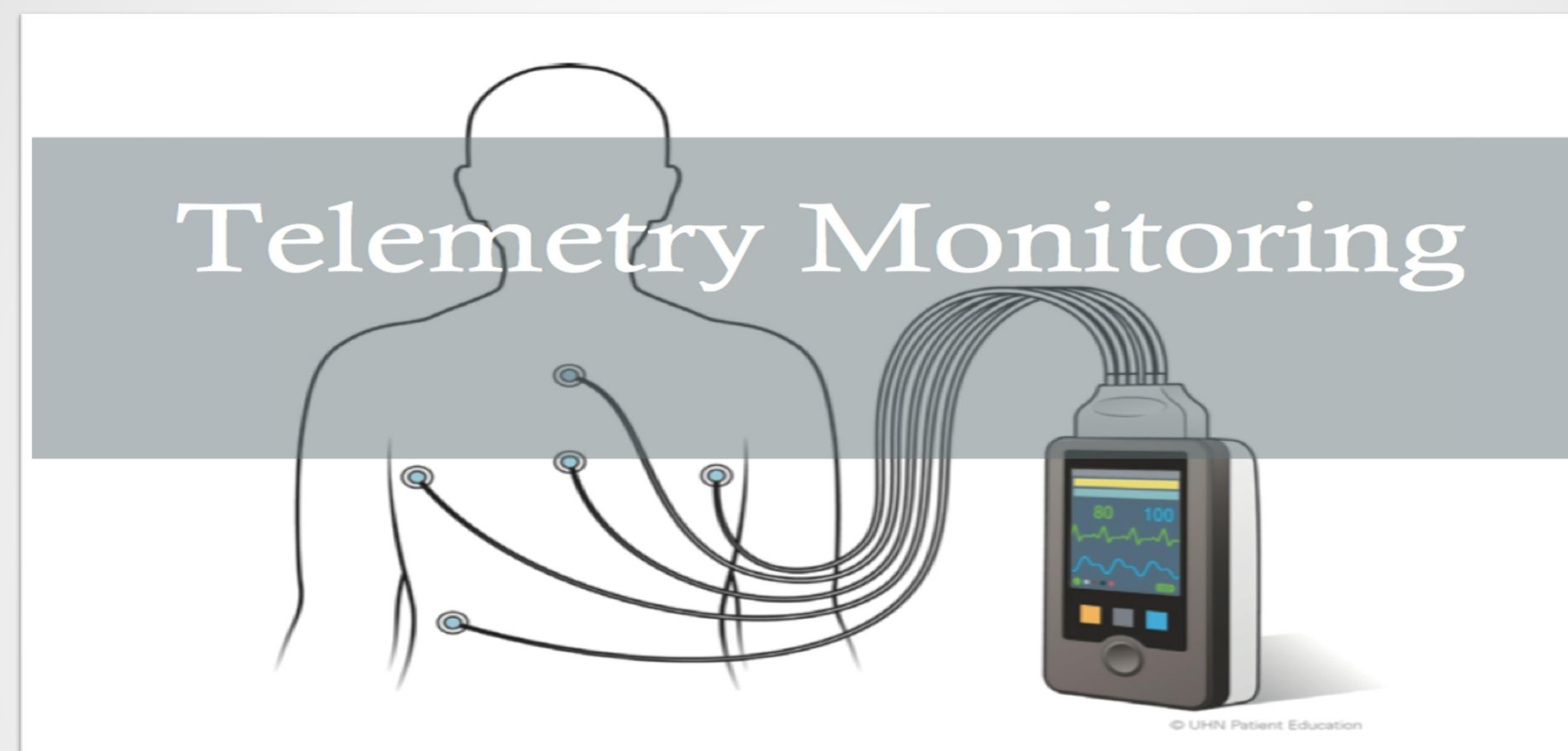
Assess whether floor RNs and patients are aware of their individual indications for telemetry monitoring on Grant 6 West: observe for improved compliance with education on the importance on continuous telemetry monitoring.

Methods

- Pre-Telemetry Monitoring Observational Survey.
- Present/discuss information to staff; informational/educational materials
- Post Telemetry Monitoring Observational Survey.

Methods and Measurements

Telemetry Education Tool



Telemetry Monitoring

Educate our patients!

Telemetry monitoring allows nursing staff and doctors to closely monitor the electrical activity within the heart of our most critical patients. Many patients requiring this monitoring are unsure of what it is for and why they need it. Educating patients and their families on the need for continuous monitoring will help decrease the likelihood that the patient would disconnect themselves from the monitor and help to improve patient safety!

Indications for Telemetry Monitoring

- Pacemaker/ICD placement
- Acute heart failure
- Syncopal episodes
- Post surgery for high risk procedures
- New onset arrhythmias
- Hyperkalemia/hypermagnesemia
- GI bleed
- Acute neurologic event
- Post acute MI
- Initiation of certain medications

Summary/Discussion

By using the findings of this project to reduce the number of telemetry disconnections we found that:

- Consistency is needed with Nurses/Techs allowing patient to unhook, there should be no exceptions.
- Patients need to be education on the importance of telemetry monitoring
- Lines need to be organized to prevent hazard
- Increase the frequency of rounding on patients with telemetry.

Feedback from the Staff RN's "The educational handout was a great reminder of the indications for telemetry monitoring"

Conclusion

- Education sessions with Registered Nurses and patients reduced the incidence of patients disconnecting themselves from telemetry monitoring as evidenced by fewer calls from P6 telemetry monitoring room.
- Although compliance improved, wireless telemetry monitoring would promote safety and compliance by decreasing the number of times the patient is disconnected from telemetry monitoring.

Pre-Telemetry Monitoring Survey Results

	Yes	No
Do you educate your patient on their specific need for telemetry monitoring?	75%	25%
Do you as the nurse unhook the patient from the telemetry monitor to do simple tasks like use the restroom or during ADL care?	50%	50%
Would a pocket telemetry monitors be easier for the patient and nursing staff as it would not require the patient to be unhooked for care throughout the day?	100%	0%

References

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Nix, M. (2015). Combating Alarm Fatigue. *The American Journal of Nursing*, 115(2), 16. Doi: 10.1097/01.NAJ.0000460671.80285.6b