

Surveillance Boards and Special Panels – A Proactive Approach to Care

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Introduction and Background

Historically static reports have been used to gather data and monitor patient care compliance to meet core measures and improve quality of patient care. Patient Status Boards have been used as a way to track patients in various clinical applications to track and categorize patient locations and display patient data. A similar but advanced concept to the status board, Surveillance Boards and Special Panels, are two methods being introduced to help monitor and trend condition specific data in real time.

Methods

Partnering with Organizational Excellence nursing staff in the inpatient setting, MIS clinical nurse analysts drafted a variety of Surveillance Boards to monitor CMS core measures. Patient results, orders and documentation are populated on a specific condition surveillance board for ease of quick identification and up to date status of care.

Special Panels are patient specific tables that offer the distinction of drilling down and displaying relevant clinical data for identified patient populations in each individual patient record. Patients at risk can be monitored for focused data such as SIRS criteria for sepsis. This specific data, such as vital signs, lab results, medications, weight, fluid balance can be easily then easily tracked to monitor progress. Special panels can be used for both inpatient and outpatient settings.

Results

Examples of boards identified as useful include skin monitoring, vaccine screening compliance, and Foley catheter usage. As new data is entered or interfaced into the EMR, each surveillance board is updated in real time eliminating the need for searching through the record or report for specific information. Surveillance boards have also been developed to monitor Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP) measures and queuing for interdisciplinary rounds. End users have access to view surveillance boards pertinent to their practice and responsibilities.

Discussion

Although recently implemented, surveillance boards and special panels show promise to be used by provider staff, nurse leaders, and unit nurses in taking a proactive and efficient approach to care.