ED Operational Redesign to Enhance Infection Control During the Pandemic

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Surge in coronavirus cases puts strain on Wisconsin hospitals

Wisconsin Judge Restores Restrictions on Bars, Restaurants Amid Surge in Covid-19

Judge finds earlier high-court ruling that ended Safer at Home order might not apply to this case
OBJECTIVES

1. KEEP PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS SAFE

2. MAINTAIN OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY
Solving the Puzzle

TRIAGE+FLOW

PROCEDURES

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

PPE
Triage + Flow Redesign

• The American Center
  – Challenges
    • No space between outside and waiting room
    • Small waiting room space
  – Solutions
    • Indoor tent to create a pt screening area
      – HEPA filter, sealed, staff in full PPE
    • Divided patient flow for CLI vs non-CLI
      – Separate triage hallway and ED pod
Triage + Flow Redesign

- University Hospital
  - Challenges
    - Physician in triage model
    - Waiting room often crowded
    - Higher acuity and at-risk populations
  - Solutions
    - Closed physician triage → Pivot RN in triage
    - Add second check-in/vitals station
    - Pull CLI pts immediately to a room (if possible)
    - Convert ED Obs Unit to Respiratory Care Unit (RCU)
• Challenges
  – UH = 6 negative pressure rooms, no-resus bays
  – UH/TAC = distance patients in waiting rooms
  – Room contamination and turnaround time
  – Staff exposure during check-in

• Solutions
  – Convert 3 resus bays to negative pressure
  – Convert ED Obs Unit to RCU (13 total care areas)
  – Install equipment covers and clear barriers
  – No visitor policy
Physical Environment
Physical Environment
• Challenges
  – Supply chain
  – Uncertainty about required level of PPE
  – Compliance concerns with donning/doffing
  – Staff concern about self contamination

• Solutions
  – Secure PPE for ED as a priority setting
  – Establish PPE protocol based on risk of exposure
  – COVID-19 airway simulation, including PPE
  – PPE storage area, locker rooms, decon stations
PPE
Procedures

- Redesign for AGPs
  - Minimize staff in room
  - Ensure visibility
  - Stage equipment
  - Minimize door opening
  - ‘Dump’ kits in room
  - In-line viral filters
  - Airway strike team
UW COVID-19 Response Team

Communication is Key