Strengthening Care for Infants with Medical Complexity During the Transition from the NICU to the Community

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Background

- Neonates with medical complexity (NMC) are living longer, consequently the complexity of medical and social needs is increasing exponentially
- Heterogeneous group of patients BUT core care needs are similar
- At BC Women’s Hospital NICU, NMC are cared for by the NCC Team with a focus on PROACTIVE and FAMILY INTEGRATED care
- Transition related issues are the underlying cause of high morbidity and rehospitalization rates in NMC

Hypothesis

NICU to community transition related issues are the underlying cause of high morbidity and rehospitalization rates

Global Objective

Engage stakeholders at BC Women’s and BC Children’s Hospital in implementing system-level change to champion the successful transition of NMC into early childhood

Methods

Mixed methods , prospective, engagement project

Existing Gaps Activity

What are the post NICU discharge care coordination needs of families? - Journey mapping & focus group with families caring for NICU graduates of <2 years with medical complexity

What are the existing evidence-based neonatal to early childhood transition models? How effective are they in improving health outcomes and patient/family experience? - Rapid scoping literature review - Evidence briefs for stakeholders

What interventions are effective in reducing ED visits and hospitalizations among NMC? - Literature review - Evidence briefs for stakeholders

In restructuring / reorganizing existing transition process, what referral, training or other supports are needed to ensure successful transition from the perspectives of: (i) patient / family, (ii) care provider, and (iii) hospital? - Deliberative stakeholder dialogues - Evaluation report

Results

1. Visual graphic of transition themes arising out of family journey mapping and focus group events

2. Schematic diagram of rapid scoping literature review

3. Network of engagement growth over time

4. Respondents views on the evidence briefs

5. Respondents views on the stakeholder dialogues

Conclusions

- Transitioning from NICU to community care is especially challenging for parents of NMC
- Evidence briefs and deliberative dialogues appear to be regarded and to have resulted in stakeholders’ intentions to act
- Possible to conduct an engagement project involving healthcare professionals, stakeholders and families

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