

### Purpose: Pediatric Early Warning System (PEWS)

- BC PEWS ED is a SYSTEM comprised of 5 components, PEWS scoring record, Situational Awareness Factors, Escalation Aid, SBAR and a Pediatric Nursing Assessment Record
- PEWS systems are used to identify children at risk. PEWS triggers increased awareness leading to actions including assessing, planning, notifying, and consulting to a higher level of care (as indicated)
- The PEWS score is based on patient assessment findings. Assessment categories: Respiratory, Cardiovascular, Behavior (mental status), and other factors (persistent vomiting following surgery/ bronchodilator use q20min)
- The tool used in BC is the Brighton scoring tool. It is a validated tool and used internationally.

### Scoring

- PEWS scoring record are available in 6 age ranges
- Respiratory, Cardiovascular, Behavior categories have a maximum score of 3. "Other factors" score 2 points each. The maximum achievable score is 13
- Do not add up the scores within the categories, take the highest number within each category
- To reach the Total PEWS score add the Respiratory, Cardiovascular, Behavior and Other factor scores to equal the PEWS score
- A *Clinical Decision Support Tool* provides guidance and direction for the use of PEWS

### Vital Sign Guidelines

- Vital sign parameters are based on CTAS 2013
- Respiratory distress definitions are based on CTAS 2013
- *Vital Sign Assessment and Documentation Guideline* accompanies PEWS
- All accompanying documents are found on the Child Health BC Website

### Situational Awareness Factors

- Five factors that influence risk include: 1) Patient/Family/Caregiver Concern, 2) Watcher Patient, 3) Communication Breakdown, 4) Unusual Therapy, 5) PEWS score greater than or equal to 2. These should be considered for each patient
- Situational awareness factors are not scored
- Situational awareness factors are considered in the escalation of care
- Families and caregivers have the greatest knowledge of their child's pain, anxiety, comfort levels and response to treatment

### SBAR

- The Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation (SBAR) technique provides a communication framework between members of the health care team about a patient's condition
- The patient assessment should be framed in the SBAR format concluding with the patient's PEWS score
- The Joint Commission describes SBAR as the 'best practice for standardized communication in healthcare'

### Escalation Aid

- Provides guidance to the RN and other health care team members on the next steps in the patient's care
- The PEWS score is matched to the escalation aid zone
- The recommendations and considerations are not a substitute for clinical assessment or clinical judgment but aid in decision making regarding mitigating patients' at risk of deterioration by offering suggestions for planning, assessment, notification and resources in patient care

### Use of PEWS in the Emergency or Urgent Care Setting

- At Triage the patient's CTAS score is determined. When assigning the CTAS score consider CTAS guidelines, the PEWS score and situational awareness factors
- Complete the Sepsis Screen
- A patient requiring emergent care or resuscitation will not have a PEWS score completed at Triage. A PEWS score may be applied at any time. Children who continue to be in a resuscitated state should be managed according to site procedures and physician orders. Referring to the Escalation aid (red zone) may offer useful support and recommendations in care, planning, consultation and transfer.
- PEWS documentation and scoring will occur at the patient bedside on the PEWS scoring record with each vital sign measurement. This is to ensure timely calculation of the PEWS score and subsequent activation of the appropriate escalation as necessary in order to avoid further patient deterioration
- PEWS will be continued throughout the ED stay

### Summary

- Learn where the resources are for PEWS in ED in your department and who to contact for support (site champions, CNE's, CHBC Coordinators)
- Become familiar with the Child Health BC website 'Initiatives Documents and Reports' Pediatric Early Warning System for all the resources and related guidelines
- PEWS is a system of care that relies on the PEWS components and a team approach to managing the child at risk of deterioration