In order to better incorporate the Institute of Health Care Improvement’s 100,000 lives campaign, we recommend healthcare institutions focus on early detection and subsequent intervention of preventable cardiopulmonary arrest. After analyzing the literature, we recommend the following solutions: implement Rapid Response Teams; incorporate the additional disciplines of respiratory therapy and pharmacy as members of the interprofessional team; and educate the entire interprofessional group on the value of teamwork as it relates to patient care outcomes.

The term “failure to rescue” is considered failure to identify negative changes in a patient’s condition until major complications take place. A patient deteriorates on average about 6.5 hours before a critical event occurs. Institute of Health Care Improvement’s 100,000 lives campaign stated that earlier recognition of deterioration and early intervention by trained professionals can lead to better patient outcomes. Insufficient communication amongst the patient’s healthcare team is a fundamental problem that leads to failure to rescue in acute care settings.

Rapid Response Teams also known as Medical Evaluation Teams, provide an interprofessional response to patients with deteriorating conditions. Rapid response systems may differ in structure but often consist of a combination of the following professionals: physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, and pharmacists. These teams are designed to respond earlier to deteriorating patient conditions by bringing critical care expertise to the medical/surgical bedside and resulting in averted code arrests or unintended transfers to Intensive Care Units. A systematic review showed that utilization of Rapid Response Teams reduced non-ICU cardiopulmonary arrests by 33.8% in adults.

Conclusions

In order to better incorporate the Institute of Health Care Improvement’s 100,000 lives campaign, we recommend healthcare institutions focus on early detection and subsequent intervention of preventable cardiopulmonary arrest. After analyzing the literature, we recommend the following solutions: implement Rapid Response Teams; incorporate the additional disciplines of respiratory therapy and pharmacy as members of the interprofessional team; and educate the entire interprofessional group on the value of teamwork as it relates to patient care outcomes.

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6 articles were analyzed including a meta-analysis. Searched Gold Rush for research articles from 2000-2010; search terms used were: “Rapid response teams, interprofessional teamwork.” Searched Nursing Reference Center for research articles from 2007-2010; search terms used were: “Rapid response teams.” Searched PubMed under MeSH subheadings; search terms used were “interprofessional teamwork” and “Rapid response teams.” 1 ancestry search through PubMed, Gold Rush Linker, to MD Consult; MD Consult search terms used were “Rapid response team results.”