Breaking down silos for far reaching benefits -Standardised and Safe Intubation Package (SSIP). Promoting Value-based care in EDs (PROV-ED) Project

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Introduction:

Queensland Health's Hospital and Health Services structure provides governance to manage facilities and services over a vast geographical area, but this structure can contribute to 'silos' limiting innovation dissemination. When faced with a pandemic, the need to "work together" is highlighted.

High-risk procedures increase the cognitive load on clinicians and require a streamlined, team-approach. Lack of standardisation of practice may lead to errors, with potentially catastrophic outcomes for patients and significant stress for staff. Intubation is less frequently performed in non-metropolitan hospitals. Variation in the availability, skills, and experience of medical staff increase these risks.

Description:

SSIP was derived by Dr Jacob O'Gorman and the team in a regional Queensland ED (Gladstone Hospital). It's based on longstanding practices safely used in the retrieval setting and tertiary EDs. The package has four components (equipment shadowboard, pre- and post-intubation guides and drug draw up guide).

Outcomes:

SSIP has been tailored for implementation into 16 metropolitan and regional hospitals and has been included in the Airway Procedural Kit in the 2020 Queensland Rural and Remote Emergency Services Standardisation Guidelines. With COVID-19 developments in early 2020, SSIP rollout was fast-tracked to 148 rural and remote facilities. The PROV-ED team worked alongside the Retrieval Services Queensland (RSQ) Education Support Team and EMET program ensuring staff awareness and education of the resources during this uncertain time.

Conclusions:

Breaking down silos and sharing information can have widespread impacts especially during times of adversity when staff are facing many unknowns and are hundreds of kilometres from major hospitals with expert practitioners.