

of reorientation admissible ED patients between March 2017 and August 2017. Patient safety was evaluated with patient follow-up phone interviews one week after their visit to the ED to identify the number of patients who needed to return to a medical facility after their reorientation. Patient satisfaction with the reorientation program was evaluated during the same follow-ups. **Results:** Of the 980 reoriented patients interviewed, only 57 (5.9%; 95% confidence interval [CI] 4.57-5) had to unexpectedly go back to a health care facility. None of these returns were for severe complications. Over 84% of the reoriented patients were satisfied with their reorientation and 89% say they would use this program again. Having a transportation problem was most common reason mentioned by patients for refusing to be reoriented. **Conclusion:** Reorientation to medical clinics using a new computer-based algorithm was safe and no case of urgent return was seen during the 6-month study period. In addition, patients who were reoriented to medical clinics were satisfied by their treatment experience. **Keywords:** reorientation, overcrowding

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The effect of Alberta's new impaired driving legislation on motor vehicle-related trauma

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Introduction: Motor vehicle collisions (MVCs) resulting in injuries and death disproportionately involve impaired drivers. Those under the influence of alcohol also have a higher rate of presentation and admission to hospital for traumatic injuries. In an attempt to decrease impaired driving and alcohol-related MVCs and injuries, the government of Alberta introduced stricter impaired driving legislation in the summer of 2012. It has yet to be determined what impact this new legislation has had on traumatic injuries secondary to MVCs and alcohol impairment. The objective of this study was to assess the relationship between the implementation of the new legislation and the proportion of alcohol-related MVC trauma presenting to the emergency department of a Level I Trauma Centre. **Methods:** A retrospective single centre cross-sectional chart review examining adult patients presenting to the ED of a major trauma centre who: a) require trauma team activation or consultation and b) have a MVC related injury. Of those charts meeting these criteria, the proportion of patients with positive blood alcohol concentration (BAC) was compared between the year before and the four years after implementation of the new legislation. Patients were identified using electronic medical record logs. We compared the proportion of impaired drivers by year using the SPSS software package and conducted an interrupted time series analysis in order to determine whether the implementation of the law directly affected the measured outcomes. **Results:** 1470 total MVC related trauma patients were identified during the study period (468 prior to legislation implementation [2010-2012] and 1002 after [2012-2016]). The proportion of drivers with BAC defined as legally impaired decreased significantly over this time period ($p=0.003$). Based on preliminary interrupted time series analysis we cannot conclude that the implementation of the new laws led to this significant change ($p=0.524$). When analyzing drivers between 16 to 25 years old, we noted a non-significant but notable decrease in the proportion of impaired drivers from 45.9% in 2011 to 21.1% in 2016 ($p=0.173$). **Conclusion:** While an impact was not seen immediately following the implementation of Alberta's new impaired driving legislation, the proportion of impaired drivers requiring trauma team activation has decreased significantly since enactment of the new legislation from 28.9% in 2011 to 16.9% in 2016. However, based on interrupted time series analysis we cannot conclude the new legislation independently influenced this change. The impact of other factors including public

education, societal preferences and generational changes cannot be excluded. There continues to be a dramatic decrease in the proportion of impaired drivers presenting with MVC related trauma under 25 years old. This has not yet reached statistical significance probably due to small sample size but the trend is most prominent in this age group.

Keywords: impaired driving, motor-vehicle related trauma, Alberta's legislation

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A variation on Triage Liaison Physicians (TLP): a comparative analysis of the Emergency Department Disposition and Care Consultant (EDC) concept

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Introduction: Despite evidence that triage liaison physicians (TLP) effectively reduce emergency department (ED) overcrowding, support for these interventions is patchy. The aim of this study was to evaluate the implementation of a TLP-like ED Disposition and Care Consultant (EDC) shift at an academic tertiary care ED. **Methods:** A 24-week pilot project was conducted 11/16-04/17. Physicians worked 8-hour day (07-15:00) and/or evening (15:00-23:00) EDC shifts and performed immediate triage and patient care when needed, assisted triage RNs, answered all incoming calls, and managed administrative matters. Due to their voluntary nature, not all shifts were filled. This study compared active (EDC) and control (C) shifts on the following ED metrics: length of stay (LOS), proportions of patients who left without being seen (LWBS), and safety (return visits to ED). Descriptive (median and interquartile range {IQR} and proportions) and simple (Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney, chi-square, z-proportion) tests are presented for continuous and dichotomous outcomes, respectively. Multiple linear regression identified factors associated with LOS. **Results:** Of 112 possible EDC shifts, 58 (52%) were filled involving 4289 patients and compared to 276 C shifts involving 21,358 patients. ED volume, patient age (49; IQR: 31, 66), mode of arrival (~30% EMS), triage levels (~51% level 3), and complaints were similar between the groups. Overall, the EDC group reduced LWBS by 16% (8.7% vs. 10.4%; $p=0.001$), ED LOS for discharged patients by 30 minutes (5.5 vs. 6.0 hours; $p<0.001$), and ED LOS for admitted patients by 42 minutes (9.7 vs. 10.4 hours; $p=0.02$). The EDC increased the proportion discharged <4 hours by 28% (20.1 vs. 15.7%; $p<0.001$) and increased the proportion admitted <8 hours by 17% (8.2% vs. 9.6%, $p=0.002$). ED relapses <72 hours were similar (9.3% vs. 8.9%; $p=0.4$); however, admissions were higher in the EDC shifts (25.3% vs. 23.8%; $p=0.04$). In addition to EDC coverage status, LOS was influenced by triage level (1.7%, $p<0.001$), disposition (19.6%, $p<0.001$), and age (4.8%, $p<0.001$). **Conclusion:** Our results indicate that an EDC shift, while unpopular with many physicians, provides valuable services to an overcrowded ED and that the implementation of this type of shift could reduce LOS and LWBS statistics in a tertiary care institution. Additional evaluations to examine this and other front-end interventions in other ED centers are indicated.

Keywords: triage liaison physicians, emergency department operations, length of stay

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Patterns and predictors of emergency physician productivity

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