

# Post-Cardiac Arrest Care in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

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# **Background**

- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is performed in 15,000 hospitalized pediatric patients in the USA annually
- 7,000 children achieve return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC), 85% will develop post-cardiac arrest syndrome (PCAS)
  - Brain and myocardial dysfunction
  - Systemic ischemia/reperfusion
  - Secondary injury from precipitating pathophysiology
- The American Heart Association (AHA) endorses postcardiac arrest care (PCAC) interventions to mitigate PCAS and improve long-term neurological and general outcomes

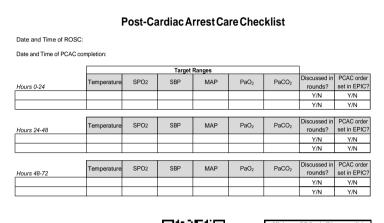
# **Methods**

**Structure Measures:** Presence of order set in Epic, number of staff oriented to checklist

**Process Measures:** Checklist present, maintenance for full 96 hours, inclusion of goals in rounds

**Outcome Measures:** Arterial blood gases and core temperatures per standard unit protocol

**Strategies & tactics**: Education by a team of change champions, weekly updates, CPR journal club



# **Discussion**

This is a novel checklist developed from AHA guidelines

#### Limitations:

- Small patient population, multiple outliers
- Competing projects in the PICU
- Risk of observation bias
- Group education limitations due to COVID-19 pandemic

#### Recommendations for Replicating:

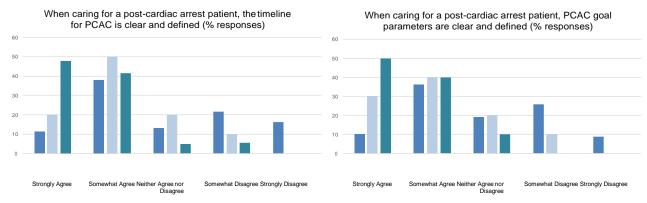
- Standardize PCAC education for new staff
- Provide real-time feedback to checklist users
- Shift ownership of checklist education and maintenance to established workgroup

# **Purpose**

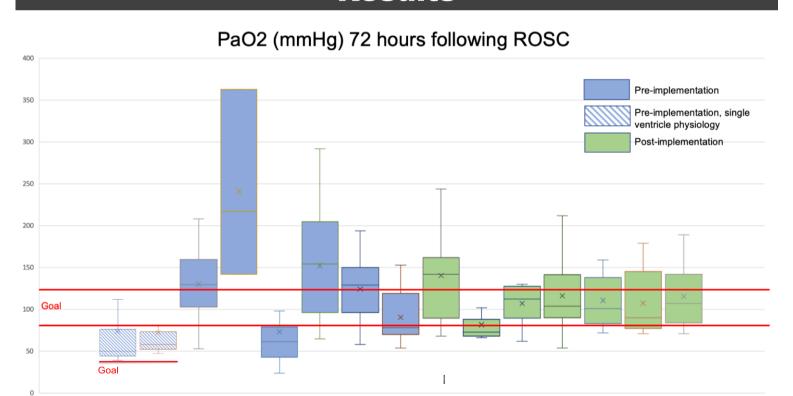
- Purpose: to improve compliance of AHA PCAC guidelines in a 40-bed pediatric intensive care unit (PICU)
- Evidence-based PCAC guidelines emphasize avoidance of hyperthermia, hyper/hypoxemia, hyper/hypocarbia, and hypotension in 72-96 hours following ROSC
- Goal: to reduce incidence of post- cardiac arrest hyperthermia and hyperoxemia to zero percent

# Development

- PCAC order set was introduced to the PICU in 2015 following publication of AHA guidelines, compliance remained poor
- Staff cultural assessment demonstrated a significant difference in perception of PCAC timeline and parameters among disciplines
- Results indicated a need for a central location to track PCAC goals following cardiac arrest

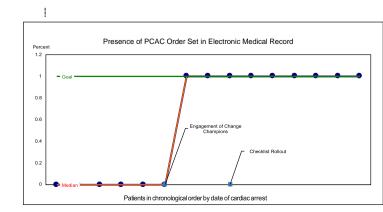


### **Results**

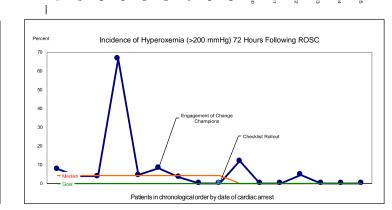


#### **Patient Cohorts:**

- Pre-implementation (n= 8)
- Post- implementation (n=7)



# Percent Incidence of Fever (>38 degrees C) 96 hours following ROSC 14 12 10 8 6 4 2 0 Patients in chronological order by date of cardiac arrest



## **Conclusions**

- The use of a bedside checklist improves compliance to PCAC guidelines and may improve long-term neurological and general patient outcomes
- Future QI projects may explore efficacy of checklist on other PCAC parameters, long-term adherence
- Education and ongoing multidisciplinary cooperation essential to ensure long-term culture change and sustainability

# References

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# **Acknowledgments**

This project was completed as a partial requirement of a doctorate of nursing degree. The author would like to acknowledge former PICU fellow Dr. Amy Manzo who first implemented PCAC in the unit and provided the framework for this initiative. Special thanks to Judith Ascenzi, DNP, RN and Stephanie Morgenstern, RN for their contributions to the project.

■RN ■NP ■Fellow ■RN NP Fellow Patients in chronological order by date of cardiac arrest