A Resident Developed Morbidity and Mortality Conference with a Patient Safety Focus
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Context
• Morbidity and Mortality conferences (MMC) are required by the ACGME for many specialties.
• Traditionally, MMC focused on individual actions and knowledge gaps.
• However, MMC provides an unique opportunity to focus on systems-based practice and practice-based learning.

Background
• Junior and senior pediatric residents created a general pediatrics morbidity and mortality conference.
• Part of a longitudinal resident quality improvement curriculum.
• Conference focus on patient safety issues.
• Using quality improvement methodology, faculty advisors guided the longitudinal project.
• Residents experience hands on QI methodology as they create and maintain the conference.
• Subsequent resident-driven QI projects arise from suggestions from the M&M conferences and cases.
• Offspring QI projects allow residents to experience real-time hospital QI processes to implement change.

Steps in the development of the new MMC
Timeline, aims statement for MMC established
Literature review and research into MMC at local hospitals
MMC goals, objectives, conference framework defined
Pre-conference survey, evaluation tool, case submission tool and process developed
Case identified and analyzed using Defects tool
First M&M conference
Focused QI project chosen by residents under way

Pre-conference attitudes survey

Conference evaluation

Interesting points
• Though residents did not believe most errors were the result of one person’s actions, they focused on their personal role in an error.
• While most residents felt comfortable disclosing errors to faculty, very few felt comfortable disclosing to a patient/family.
• Many residents felt comfortable analyzing cases for causes of errors however most residents were not familiar with the incident reporting system used by the hospital.
• Overall views about MMC show that residents do not focus on the individual physician but rather the system, which is consistent with a QI approach to MMC.

Conclusions
• A fresh outlook on the traditional Morbidity and Mortality conference offers an opportunity for teaching quality improvement concepts.
• QI-focused MMC involves residents in real-time QI projects related to patient care which can:
  • Expose residents to QI personnel and ongoing systems improvement processes
  • Pique and nurture an interest that may be continued after training
  • Broaden residents’ perspectives regarding the delivery of patient care
  • Improve patient safety
• Training and modeling medical error disclosures to residents is necessary.
• Residents benefit from training on reporting patient safety events.