Deteriorating Patient Trolley: An Innovative Patient Safety Local Improvement
Brannigan M1, Reid J2

1. ANP Queen Elizabeth University Hospital
2. ST7 Geriatric Medicine, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital

Background
Early identification and treatment of a clinically deteriorating patient is vital to decrease mortality and avoidable morbidity. Lack of it has an impact on length of stay and associated health care cost. Across DME wards a lack of equipment was cited as a contributing factor in patients not receiving their treatment in a timely manner.

Aims
• Deliver faster response to deteriorating patients
• Provide consistent availability and predictable “normal” equipment at patient bedside
• Reliably deliver care

Methods
Funding was obtained to supply each ward with a trolley, these were stocked with each of the 5 drawers labelled from A to E.

In addition to formal training bite size chunks of deteriorating patient training were rolled out.

Responses to implementation of trolleys were collected using an online survey.

Results
21 people replied to the survey request, 15 (71%) Medical staff and 6 (29%) Nursing staff.

Results were encouraging with 73% of people with experience using the trolley having found it useful, with generally positive feedback.

“Everything to hand without having to run about like an eejit. SAVED TIME”

“Able to FOCUS ON PATIENT and not looking for equipment”

“Everything AT YOUR FINGERTIPS”

Conclusion
Deteriorating patient trolleys are an easy to implement and well received innovation to improve care of acutely unwell medical patients.

They allow rapid initiation of simple treatments and free staff up to care for the patient as opposed to searching for valuable pieces of equipment. This has an effect on patient outcome and creates a calmer atmosphere for staff.

Further information contact maureen.brannigan@ggc.scot.nhs.uk