



Validation of a PEWS for Long-Term Ventilated Patients

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Objectives

- Discuss and debate the background and impact of failure to rescue
- Differentiate between the various types of PEWS
- Discuss and debate the limitations of current PEWS
- Discuss and debate the strengths and weaknesses of the development of a new PEWS tool



Background - Impact

- Research shows that there are signs of deterioration for **6-8 hours** before a significant event^{1,2,3}.
- The 100,000 lives campaign encourages hospitals to utilize rapid response teams at the first sign of decline
- **Failure to Rescue** is a national concern that affects all types of patients.

¹Subbe C.P., Kruger M., Gemmel L. (2001). "Validation of a modified Early Warning Score in medical admissions". *Quarterly Journal of Medicine* 94: 521–6.

²Morgan R, Williams F, Wright M (1997). "An early warning scoring system for detecting developing critical illness". *Clin Intensive Care* 8: 100

³"A review of rapid response team activation parameters in New Zealand hospitals". *Resuscitation* 84: 1040–1044. [resuscitation.2013.01.022](#)

What is PEWS?

- A **guide** used to quickly determine the degree of illness of a patient.
- Based on a set of fundamental **vital signs**

- A score of **five** or more is statistically linked to **increased** likelihood of death or admission to an intensive care unit.¹
- Used as part of a "track-and-trigger" system whereby an increasing score produces an **escalated** response
- Varying from increasing the **frequency** of patient's observations up to urgent **review**

¹ Subbe C.P., Kruger M., Gemmel L. (2001). "Validation of a modified Early Warning Score in medical admissions". *Quarterly Journal of Medicine* **94**: 521–6

- PEWS helps to identify patients at **risk** for deterioration sooner and save lives!^{1,2,3}
 - ↓ cardiac arrests/code blue calls ^(1,3,4)
 - ↑ Increased MET/CCO calls ^(1,2,3)
 - ↓ unexpected deaths ⁽²⁾
 - ↓ unplanned admissions to ICU ⁽²⁾
- PEWS **empowers** nurses³ to know when to:
 - Continue monitoring and routine care
 - Increase monitoring of VS and when to inform others of subtle changes
 - Notify the physician
 - Contact the MET/CCO team

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Limitations

- Based on **normal** parameters
- Variability of our patient's **“normal”**
- Difficulty in selecting a **consistent** tool

Solution?



Development of a New Tool

- Clinical experts **familiar** with patients
- Adjust parameters to ensure all our patients had the opportunity to **escalate** and **de-escalate**
- Developed escalation process
- Escalation based on variations from patient's **norm**



Methodology

- Retrospective
- Long-term care facility
- 16 Ventilated paediatric patients
- 344 observations

Validity

- Clinical expert review
 - Published evidence
 - Should escalation have occurred?
 - Was escalation level appropriate?

Results

Number of Observations	Escalation Recommended by Panel of Experts	Escalation Recommended by PEWS	Correlation
344	25	28	112%

Number of Observations	Level of Escalation Recommended by Panel of Experts	Level of Escalation Recommended by PEWS	Correlation
344	25	26	104%

Reliability

- Inter-rater reliability
- Pilot group – 10 multi-cultural staff
- Repeated 1 week later

Results

Number of Observations	Correlation
10	100%

Conclusion

Given limited breadth of research:

Appropriate for our patient population

Requires further **validation**

Limitations

- Small sample size
- Unique sample/population size
- Limited number of observations
- Compliance

Subbe C.P., Kruger M., Gemmel L. (2001). "Validation of a modified Early Warning Score in medical admissions". *Quarterly Journal of Medicine* **94**: 521–6.

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Additional References



Thank you