Care of Children with Bronchiolitis in the Emergency Department
Nicole Nutting, RN, BSN; Ayobami Akenroye MBChB MPH; Marc Baskin, MD

Topic:
Evidence-Based Guideline implemented in 2011 to standardize care of patients presenting with bronchiolitis

Goals:
- To provide education to members of healthcare teams regarding care of this population
- To reduce unnecessary utilization of treatments and resources

Performance Measures:
- % patients having chest x-rays
- rapid RSV testing
- patients who return requiring admission within 72 hours after presentation and discharge from ED
- % patients prescribed antibiotics

Results:
Comparing the patients seen prior to implementation of the EBG (Nov 2010-Apr 2011, n=560) to those seen after the EBG (Nov 2011-Apr 2012, n=528):
- The percentage of patients receiving chest x-rays decreased from 40% to 24%.
- RSV testing decreased from 33% to 17%.
- Albuterol use declined from 55% to 50%.

Cost Savings:
This led to:
- Decrease in cost of $113 per patient visit.
- Decrease in ED length of stay (LOS) of 35 minutes.
- There was no change in admission rates or bounce-back rates.

Current Season:
- Chest X-ray rates have further declined to the current chest X-ray rate of 9%, the lowest rate for the months of November through April since 2007.
- RSV testing rate is 5%.
- The use of albuterol in treatment for bronchiolitis remains high as approximately 50% continue to receive albuterol.
- However, the number of albuterol doses administered per patient has declined.