

The Anesthesia Hub – A Mobile Tool Launched to Improve Access to Critical Information. The Experience of a Large Multicenter Anesthesia Academic Practice

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Introduction: During the last couple of decades, the healthcare system has seen a dramatic improvement of information technology (IT), electronic medical records and mobile-based medical applications for patient care. For some providers, this might seem like the perfect world, but for others, it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep up (1). Medical IT can help prevent errors and adverse events by improving communication between providers and allowing knowledge to be readily available (2), especially in crisis situations.

Methods: With the use of Hubspring.com, we designed a web platform for mobile devices that contained critical information to the Department of Anesthesia providers -the "Anesthesia Hub". All information was publicly available in different sites, but not easily accessible during critical events. The information included in the Anesthesia Hub is: contacts, departmental policies and protocols, including ever changing updated Ebola treatment protocols, facility and clinical resources, residency and administrative resources, and all provider schedules.

We progressively launched the application after an oral presentation to the residents (CA-1 to CA-3), then proceeded to include all faculty and per diems after 2 weeks. After 1 month of usage, CRNA's from 3 of our centers were included. We then continued to monitor the daily and weekly individual usage of the application and measured adoption of this new technology.

Results: A steady increase of daily and weekly usage of the information tool has been measured. During week 1, with 21 users, the "Hub" was accessed 141 times. During week 4, 90 active users accessed the application 709 times. At week 9, 136 users accessed the application 636 times. At week 13, 167 active users accessed the "Hub" more than 1000 times.

Discussion: As the healthcare industry adopts some of these mobile technologies, patient safety and the anesthesiologists vigilance is of concern. Recently, the Patient Safety Foundation published an article on the use of mobile devices and risk for distraction (3). In this article they discuss the different types of technologies and the concerns they pose, and also discuss solutions. We believe mobile technologies and the applications they carry can most effectively meet the need for updated critical information at every point of care during times of crisis, such as surgical emergencies, consults, evaluations, and epidemics. Our experience during the release of this application is very positive and demonstrates the providers' need of tools that carry all the latest information in an easily accessible manner.

References:

- (1) NEJM 2007;356:2527-2534
- (2) NEJM 2003;348:2526-2534
- (3) APSF Newsletter 2014;29:3-5

