DEVELOPMENT OF LEARNING MODULES TO IMPROVE THE INFORMED CONSENT PROCESS

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Background

- Informed consent is defined as the "process of communication between a patient and physician that results in the patient's authorization or agreement to undergo a specific medical intervention."
- Informed consent is required for all major therapeutic treatments and diagnostic procedures where the disclosure of significant medical information, including the major risks involved, would assist the patient in making an intelligent decision whether to undergo the proposed treatment or procedure.
- Process is frequently insufficient leaving patients and physicians at odds
- Prior research has demonstrated that patient comprehension of the key elements of informed consent is often poor and physicians receive little training on how to carry out informed consent discussions.
- To seek to improve the informed consent process at UVMMC the current project was developed.

Identify important elements of informed consent as outlined in the UVMMC Informed Consent policy.

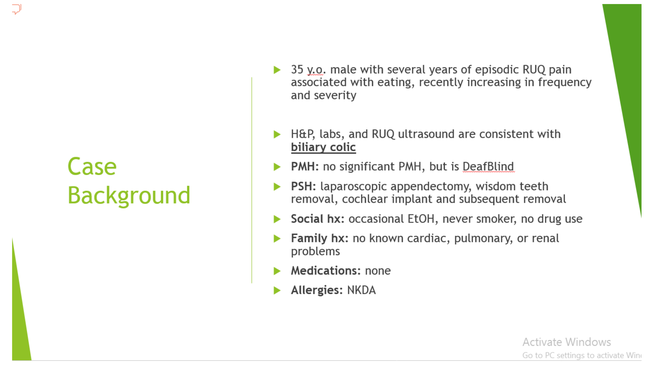
Understand the key tenets of the Informed Consent Policy.

Goals

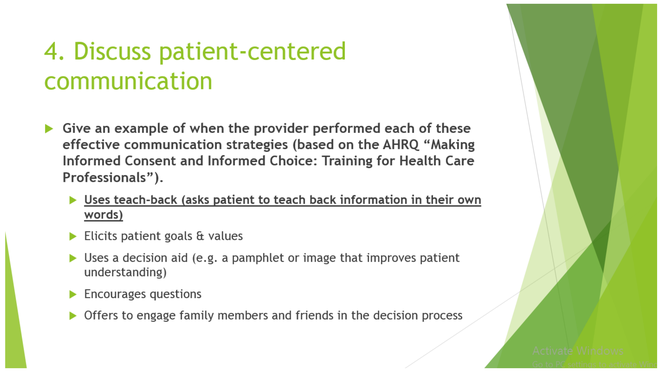
1. Evaluate current UVMMC policies and practices
2. Develop simulation based cases of the most common procedures performed and the informed consent process for these procedures.
3. Create simulated patient informed consent interactions and generate learning modules from these interactions.
4. Disseminate learning modules to physicians partaking in the informed consent process and evaluate outcomes following the intervention.
5. Improve patient satisfaction with informed consent process

Current Progress

- General surgery case, laparoscopic cholecystectomy, has been created along with corresponding standardized patient checklist.
- Checklist includes discussion points and practitioner interaction goals that must be met during the interaction



- Learning module PowerPoint with embedded interaction with Deafblind patient informed consent process has been created.
- Learning module has been reviewed by UVMMC committee working to improve informed consent process.



- Additional filming has taken place to provide "gold standard" practitioner with example of informed consent process

Next Steps

- Recruit physicians to partake in filming of proper informed consent process videos
- Create learning modules for Department of Surgery most common procedures and Department of Anesthesia most common procedures
- Disseminate learning modules to providers throughout UVMMC who partake in the informed consent process
- Evaluate effectiveness of learning modules as a tool to improve the informed consent process at UVMMC

References

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