



Nurse-Led Eye Care Protocol

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Background

Paediatric Intensive Care (PICU) patients are at risk of ocular complications associated with exposed keratopathy from sedation and paralysis. Eye care is an essential nursing responsibility which can often be unrecognised or overlooked, due to a nurse's heavy workload for a Critically Ill Child.

The aim was to devise an evidence-based protocol specifically for PICU, to educate and empower nurses to prevent or detect early eye complications and refer to specialists in a timely manner.

References

Minton, L.Batten, A.Huntington 2018. The impact of a prolonged stay in the ICU on patients fundamental care needs. Journal of Clinical Nursing 2018; vol 27, pages 2300-2310

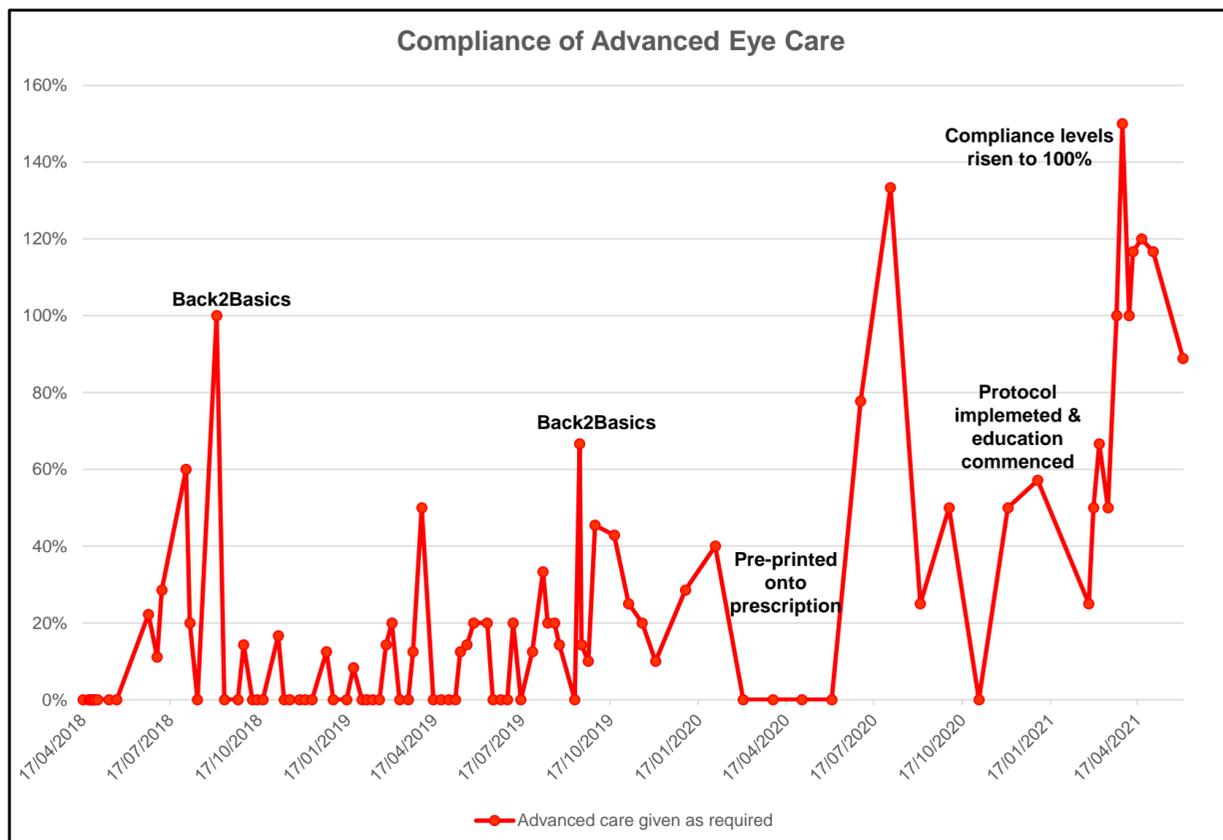
Methods

Local audit's highlighted that compliance levels within advanced eye care was 14%, which involves 4 hourly cleaning of the eye, lubricant application and an eyelid closure assessment. Ocular incidents were then analysed, to review what percentage was likely to be a direct consequence of poor eye care.

A scoping literature review using CINAHL database helped to structure and devise the protocol, alongside collaborative working with adult ICU, ophthalmology and pharmacy.

The protocol was integrated into our electronic system and prescription charts were updated to include pre-printed eye lubrication.

Results



Snapshot bedside trolley training utilising novel and innovative teaching methods was delivered to 70 nurses over a 1-week period. Compliance levels have maintained between 80-100% in the months following the implementation of the protocol.



Conclusions

Providing clear eye care guidelines and education may alter a nurses' perception on the importance of basic nursing cares and increase their confidence and abilities to deliver an excellent standard of eye care, aiding the prevention and early detection of ocular complications for the PICU population and therefore ensuring we are delivering evidence-based care and enhancing patient experience.