Abstract

The American Heart Association guidelines support the use of a wearable cardioverter defibrillator for protection against sudden cardiac death in patients meeting criteria, but a gap in practice was identified regarding the decision-making process in considering this therapy in clinical practice. The goal of this project was to create and utilize a decisional tool that would increase provider awareness and aid in the appropriately identifying patients at risk for sudden cardiac death. Subsequently, this should elicit an improvement in the rate of wearable cardioverter defibrillator prescriptions in patients who qualify for this therapy. The cardiac inpatient unit at the facility in which the project took place, does not currently have a standard protocol or decisional process for identifying patients who may be appropriate candidates for this treatment option. The providers' knowledge and perceptions were assessed before and after implementation. Completion of a pre and post surveys were requested to evaluate the success and potential barriers of the project initiative, in terms of proper education and increased awareness of the American Heart Association guidelines. A visual tool to increase awareness and standardize patient identification of this population, was also created and displayed over the 90-day project implementation.

Key words: *wearable cardioverter defibrillator, protection, sudden cardiac death, increased awareness, education, patient identification, LifeVest*