

AUDIT OF THE DOCUMENTATION OF ADMISSION CLERKINGS IN A NEONATAL UNIT OF A TERTIARY HOSPITAL IN THE NORTH-WESTERN NIGERIA

¹Asma'u Adamu, ¹Ben Oloche Onankpa, ¹Khadijat Omeneke Isezuo,
²Mohammad Ali, ¹Fatima Bello Jiya and ³Umar Muhammad Ango

¹ Department of Pediatrics, Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital, Sokoto

² Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital, Sokoto

³ Department of Community Health, Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital, Sokoto

Corresponding Author's email: nanadamu@gmail.com



Abstract

Medical record is valuable for research, audit and medico legal purposes. But its primary function is for patient care. Omission in doctor's clerking can lead to multiple errors. Majority of hospitals in Nigeria have limited resources and cannot afford electronic medical recording, therefore there is need to maintain the quality of existing hand written record. This study aimed at audit documentation of admission clerkings in a neonatal unit of a tertiary hospital in North- Western, Nigeria. This was a 4-month prospective study that reviewed admission records by different cadre of doctors into the neonatal unit of the Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital (UDUTH), Sokoto from 1st February to 31st May, 2015. A checklist was used to audit the clerkings. The frequency of documentation by different cadre of doctors, recording of doctors' information, recording of patients' information and examinations findings were expressed as proportions. Chi-square was used to test for association between the doctors' cadre and their documentation, but where more than 20% the cells expected frequency is less than 5, Fisher's Exact test was used, a p-value of < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. One hundred and sixty hand written clerkings were reviewed. Date of consultation was documented in 150(93.7%) but no time of consultation in 37(23.1%). One hundred and forty- two (88.8%) had the patients name written in full on the first page, but no patients name and page numbering on the subsequent pages in 108(67.5%) and 135(84.4%) of the clerkings respectively. Address and age of patients were not documented in 95(59.4%) and 55(34.4%) of the medical notes respectively. The weight (144/90.0%), length (130/81.2%), respiratory rate (142/88.8%) and heart rate (144/90.0%) were documented in the majority of the clerkings. Most (83,51.9) of the clerkings were signed. The study revealed suboptimal documentation of admission clerkings by doctors. The study recommended the introduction of a standard clerking template, electronic clerking template and recording device to minimise clerking omissions.

Keywords: Audit, clerkings, documentation, admission, Neonatal, North –Western, Nigeria