

Introduction

- Peritonitis is a common complication of peritoneal dialysis (PD) that may lead to technique failure and hospitalization; peritonitis also contributes to mortality in PD patients.
- Effective management of peritonitis involves many steps, including initial patient education, periodic patient re-education, the use of prophylactic antibiotics, and an understanding of appropriate treatment strategies.

Objective

- To reduce peritonitis episodes through the development and implementation of a surveillance tool and audit process

Methods

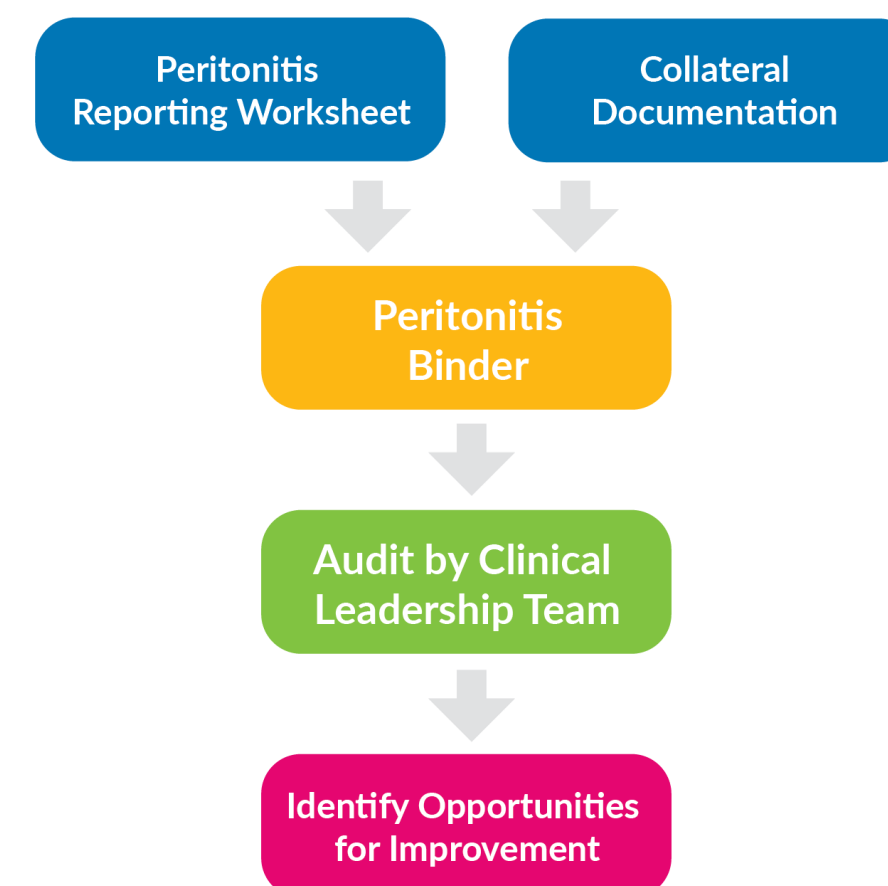
- A Peritonitis Reporting Worksheet (Figure 1) was developed to provide a standardized process for the documentation of symptoms, etiology, treatments, and outcomes for peritonitis episodes.
 - The worksheet also provides a follow-up checklist listing prevention and management actions to be completed.
- All documentation and worksheet checklist items for each episode were retained in a dedicated Peritonitis Binder.
 - Having all of the relevant documentation in a single place allowed for the easy identification of any gaps in treatment.
- All cases were reviewed by the clinical leadership team to identify opportunities for process improvement (Figure 2).
- Use of the Peritonitis Reporting Worksheet and audit process was implemented in November 2018 in 3 divisions within a large dialysis organization (LDO).

Methods

Figure 1: Peritonitis Reporting Worksheet

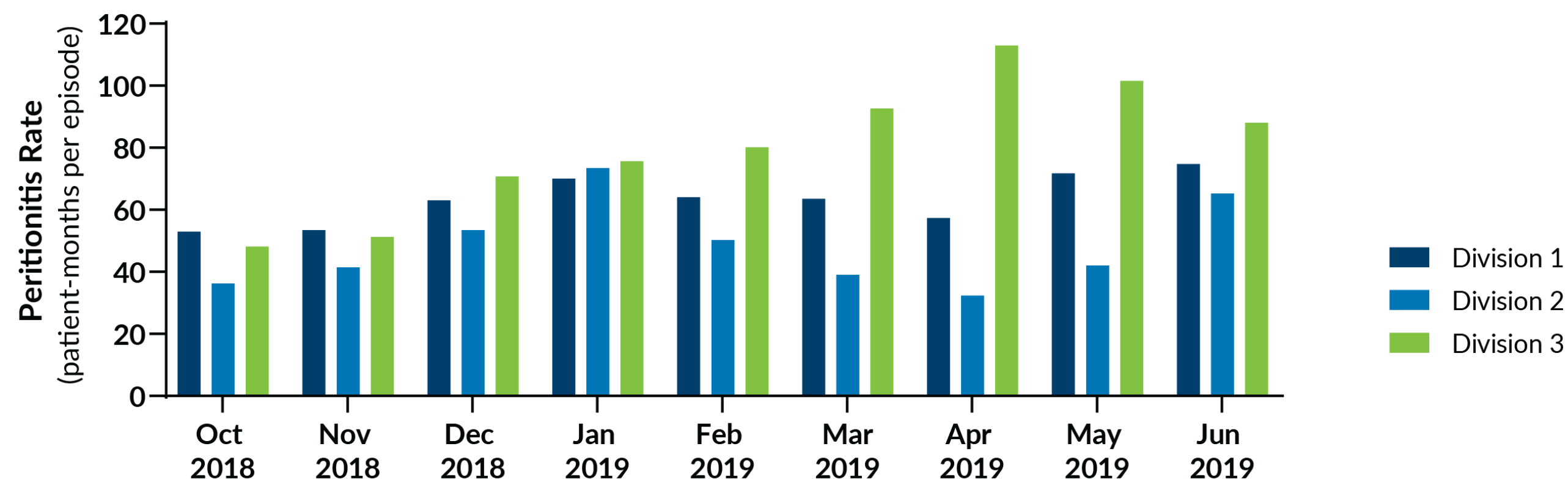
The form includes sections for patient information, symptoms, treatment given, etiology, and a follow-up checklist. It is designed to capture detailed data for each peritonitis episode.

Figure 2: Surveillance and Audit Process



Results

Figure 3: Peritonitis Rates (patient-months per episode), October 2018 to June 2019



Audit Findings and Recommendations

- Clinical audits of completed Peritonitis Reporting Worksheets revealed that many episodes occurred after approximately 2 years on therapy.
 - As a result, retraining on infection prevention was implemented for all patients reaching 24 months on PD.
- Additional action steps implemented as a result of audit findings included:
 - emphasizing infection prevention during initial training
 - providing infection prevention education at monthly clinic visits
 - initiating antibiotic treatment immediately upon identification of signs/symptoms
 - performing post-episode assessments to ensure that retraining is specifically directed to address the source of the contaminant

Conclusions

- Implementation of a standardized documentation and audit process to ensure the completion of key management actions and timely identification of opportunities for process improvement was effective in driving reduction in peritonitis rates.

References

- Campbell DJ, Johnson DW, Mudge DW, Gallagher MP, Craig JC. Prevention of peritoneal dialysis-related infections. *Nephrol Dial Transplant.* 2015;30(9):1461-72.
- Guest S. *Handbook of Peritoneal Dialysis*, 2nd edition.

Acknowledgments

We extend our sincere appreciation to the teammates in more than 2,000 DaVita clinics who work every day to take care of patients. We acknowledge Abigail E. Hunt, PhD, of DaVita Clinical Research for editorial contributions in preparing this poster.

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Poster available at www.davitaclinicalresearch.com

Annual Dialysis Conference, Feb 8-11, 2020, Kansas City, MO