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Baseline echocardiograms (Echo) are important in evaluating donor hearts. However, attaining Echos may be challenging in a smaller hospital setting, at odd hours, and with no available cardiologist in house to read the data. This study examines a quality improvement measure that was implemented at the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency (LOPA). Advanced coordinators managing the patients were trained to perform echocardiography themselves. We demonstrate that in such a case, both efficiency and costs have improved, allowing for more expeditious placement and transplantation of these hearts.

Introduction

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Aim

To assess the efficiency of donor heart evaluation and placement in a pilot project where the LOPA advanced coordinators were trained to perform bedside echocardiography.

Conclusions

With a pilot program using at site coordinators performing echocardiograms themselves, we found there was an improvement in workup times and placement of hearts for transplantation. In addition, there was a decrease in overall cost.

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key</th>
<th>Echo performed by</th>
<th>Echo read by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>Staff cardiologist or hospital technician</td>
<td>Staff cardiologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compumed*</td>
<td>Hospital technician</td>
<td>Compumed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOPA</td>
<td>LOPA employee</td>
<td>Compumed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Compumed is a company based in Beverly Hills, CA that provides cloud software for uploading echocardiograms. Their Board-Certified cardiologist provides immediate diagnostic exam interpretations.