Identification of Purpose

Hospitalized patients with a diagnosis of gastrointestinal (GI) bleed, unknown source of anemia, received a delay in care due to diagnostic testing being unavailable at a regional hospital.

To evaluate the small intestine in patients with an unknown source of GI bleeding, including overt and occult and iron deficiency anemia, a small bowel study is indicated.

Quality Improvement

A need for inpatient small bowel diagnostic testing was identified to improve patient care and outcomes:

- An increase in endoscopy patients diagnosed with GI bleed being discharged home without small bowel testing.
- Small bowel diagnostic testing was not being performed at regional hospital sites.
- Introducing small bowel testing at a regional hospital was attainable.

Implications for Nursing Practice

- Expansion to regional hospitals’ endoscopy units.
- Assessment of patient, patient education, and installation of capsule by swallow method is performed by a nurse, as ordered by a physician.
- Partnership and collaboration of nurses and physicians across Cleveland Clinic facilities.

Outcomes and Measurements

The Cleveland Clinic regional hospital capsule endoscopy testing commenced in June of 2014.

Data was collected from June 2014 to April 2016:

- 98 patients received a capsule study.
- 39 of 98 patients received a positive test result requiring additional endoscopic treatment.