

# NOVEL News aspen

## New Opportunities for Verification of Enteral Tube Location Project

### LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

2020 has been a year none of us saw coming; COVID-19 has likely impacted the healthcare system in ways we will be analyzing for years to come. In the midst of all the turmoil, we soldiered on. We heard from many of you who are moving forward while trying to cope with immediate crises. This newsletter is a summary of the work of 2020, but before we get to that, let me remind you of who the NOVEL project members are and what groups they represent.

Beth Lyman, MSN, RN, CNSC, FASPEN, FAAN;  
Nutrition Support Nurse Consultant; Project Chair;  
representing ASPEN

LaDonna Northington, RN, DNS; University of  
Mississippi School of Nursing; representing Society of  
Pediatric Nursing

Carol Kemper, PhD, RN, FAAN; Children's Mercy  
Kansas City; representing Patient Safety Officers

Sharon Irving, PhD, CRNP, FCCM, FAAN; University of  
Pennsylvania School of Nursing; representing AACN  
and ASPEN

Gina Rempel MD, FRCPC, FAAP; Children's Hospital  
Winnipeg; representing ASPEN and international  
members

Wednesday Sevilla, MD, MPH, CNSC; Children's  
Hospital of Pittsburgh, UPMC; representing ASPEN

Rosemary Pauley, APRN, MS; Boys Town National  
Research Hospital; representing Association of  
Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition Nurses  
APGNN

Candice Moore, MSN, RN; Cincinnati Children's  
Hospital; representing home care

Deahna Visscher; Parent Representative and Safety  
Advocate

### NEW STUDY IN THE WORKS ON NG PLACEMENT AND VERIFICATION IN 2020

We sent out a survey to members of our representative organizations and heard back from over 250 respondents representing over 170 institutions mostly from the US, but we did have some international respondents. While the results are still being analyzed, we can see some trends. Compared to the 2015 study looking at how many children have a temporary feeding tube in place, results of this study showed an increase in the use of pH to verify NG tube placement in infants and children. We do see variability within units in some institutions as to how NG tube placement is confirmed, which is concerning. It is likely we will need to do a companion study based on these results, but even the qualitative data from text field responses shows nurses are changing practice based on information presented at professional seminars or in publications. Dr. LaDonna Northington is the principal investigator for this study. We intend to submit it for publication in the *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*.

## OTHER NOVEL ACTIVITIES

In addition to our work on the study, NOVEL project members submitted a letter to the editor of a journal where an article was published with information we found to be incorrect. Look for that to continue as we are dedicated to ensuring nurses receive correct evidence-based information regarding NG tube placement verification.

For those of you who work with pediatric *and* adult patients, the adult NOVEL project members led by Jan Powers and Britta Brown are finishing a manuscript focusing on competency validation for staff who place NG tubes. This document will likely have elements that pertain to pediatric clinicians as well. Look for this publication to be out later in 2021 in *Nutrition in Clinical Practice*. This coalition includes clinicians from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses, the Society of Critical Care Medicine, the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, and the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists.

In November, Deahna Visscher and Beth Lyman participated in a [podcast](#) with a group from the United Kingdom to compare how NG tube placement is verified in the US versus the UK.

## PATIENT SAFETY MOVEMENT FOUNDATION ACTIONABLE PATIENT SAFETY SOLUTION

In 2021, our workgroup on NGT placement and verification will update our Actionable Patient Safety Solution. This group submitted an article to the *Patient Safety Journal* published by the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority on this as an important patient safety initiative. Oliva Lounsberry is the first author on this publication.

## PENNSYLVANIA PATIENT SAFETY AUTHORITY

Earlier this year, Beth and Peggi met with the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority to discuss mining their database to look for NG tube misplacements. They did find cases and are writing an article for their *Patient Safety* journal. Beth and Peggi will have an opportunity to review the article prior to publication.

## THE YEAR AHEAD

The year ahead will be better! Many of the planned advances in technology have been put on hold awaiting the ability for clinicians to meet in person with inventors and industry members. This may continue to be the case for a good part of 2021 but that does not mean progress is not being made.

Look for upcoming publications from the adult and pediatric NOVEL project groups. Let us know if you are encountering stumbling blocks. We may be able to help. My email is [lymanb2954@gmail.com](mailto:lymanb2954@gmail.com).

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Chair, ASPEN NOVEL Project*