

Audit Title:

Impact of implementation of the simplified Wells Criteria on referrals for pulmonary embolism.

Background:

A CT Pulmonary angiogram (CTPA) is the study of choice to evaluate patients with suspected pulmonary emboli (PE) and underlying pulmonary disease. A CT Pulmonary Embolism (CTPE) Algorithm for ordering CTPA studies was developed between the departments of Diagnostic Imaging, Emergency Medicine and Hematology which introduced a simplified Wells score to risk stratify the patients and determine the investigation pathway for assessment.

Aim:

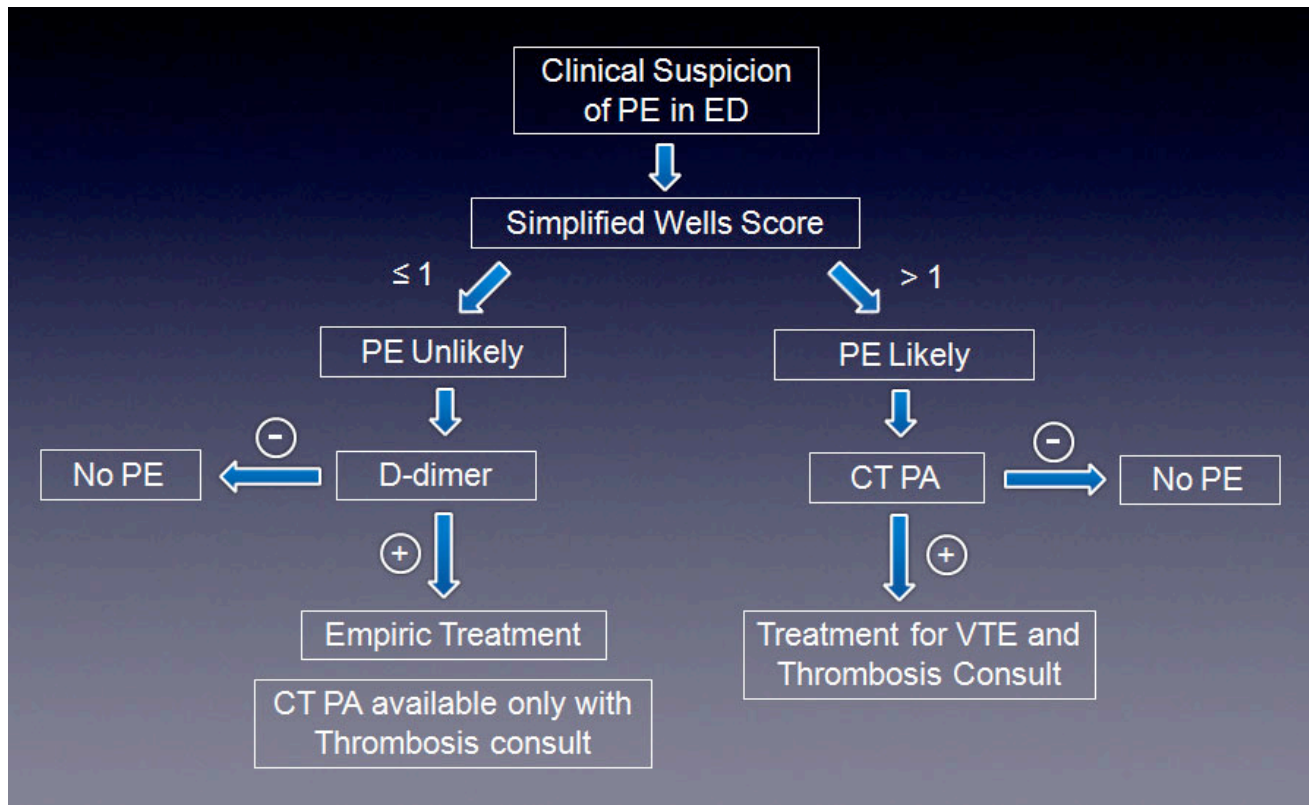
To determine the impact of implementation of the simplified Wells Criteria on referrals for suspected pulmonary embolism.
To decrease the number of negative CTPA studies.

Intervention:

Simplified Wells Criteria

Institution protocol:

A collaborated protocol between the Emergency department, Hematology and Radiology is required to determine the work up pathway of the patient. The figure below outlines the pathway used at St Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton.



Data to be collected before and after the intervention:

List of patients with suspected pulmonary embolism

Name, age and gender
Clinical information
D-Dimer value
Study time: 8am-5pm, 5pm to midnight and midnight to 8am.
Preceding CXR result
CT PA result

Suggestions if outcome is not met:

Check the method of information transfer to educate referrers regarding the use of the simplified Wells Criteria.

Increase the period of data collection.

Consider re-writing the algorithm for work up.