

Leveraging Mobile Documentation to Improve Access to Therapy Services in Acute Care

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Purpose

- The purpose of this study was to assess the productivity and efficacy of using mobile documentation devices in PT practice.
- We hypothesized that allowing acute care physical therapists (PT) to document remotely during treatment sessions or while traveling between patient visits, would increase productivity, thus providing greater patient access to therapy services.

Description

- Ten iPhone 8 mobile phones were purchased and loaded with the ROVER application. PT flowsheets were built with assistance from the network Information Services team.
- ROVERs were assigned to therapists who work on Medical/Surgical units. Seven ROVERs were deployed to PT's in a large teaching hospital (CC) while three were provided to PT's in a smaller community based hospital (MH).
- The PT's were trained in ROVER application use for patient documentation. Baseline productivity was used to compare against productivity at one, six and eight week intervals.

Summary of Use

- There was an overall average increase in patients seen by each PT per day of 0.28 in the first week. After the eight week trial, there was an increase in productivity at each site but they were more pronounced at CC than at the smaller MH site.
- Productivity increased by 6% and the average number of patients seen per day increased by 0.51 patients.
- Any gain in productivity can yield a reduction in per diem hours needed at \$55/hour. Because therapists averaged 0.05 hours per visit less, there was a potential savings of \$2.75 per therapist/per hour or \$22 per day.
- Multiplied across 10 therapists in the pilot, there was a return on investment in one month and a potential yearly savings of up to \$79,000.

FIGURE 1. PATIENT VISITS ACROSS DIVISION

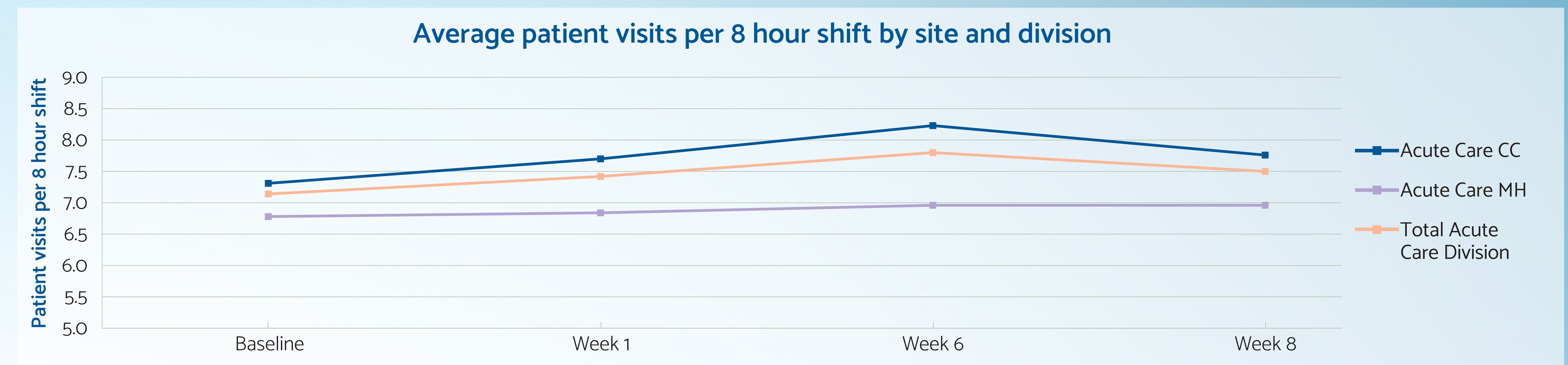


FIGURE 2. THERAPIST AND PRODUCTIVITY CHANGES

Therapist	Average number of additional patients per day after 8 weeks	Results extrapolated over entire site (average additional daily visits)	Average percent increase in productivity
#1	0.78	38 Clinical PT staff	9.07%
#2	1.07		12.04%
#3	1.95		34.93%
#4	-0.54		-6.64%
#5	0.32		5.85%
#6	0.95		11.39%
#7	-0.32		-4.05%
ACUTE CARE CC AVERAGES	0.59	22.43	8.08%
#8	-0.32	9 Clinical PT staff	-4.54%
#9	0.25		3.88%
#10	0.56		8.23%
ACUTE CARE MH AVERAGES	0.18	1.59	2.02%
TOTAL AVERAGE	0.51	23.96	6.07%

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