

Optimization of the Surgical Residents' Educational Experience.

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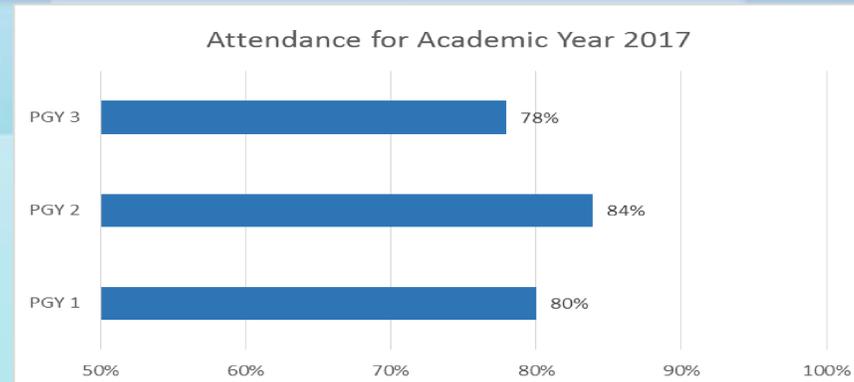
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

INTRODUCTION

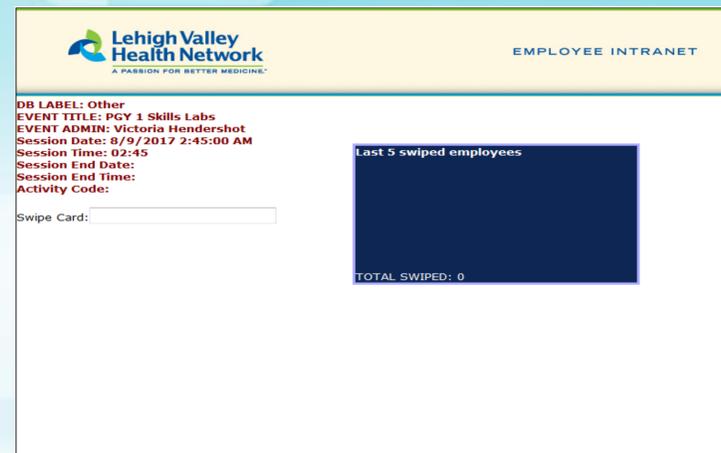
- The surgical skills taught to Lehigh Valley Health Network's (LVHN) surgical residents during skills laboratories are the foundation for a successful surgeon
- Nationally, only 66% of surgical residents are considered 'autonomous' by the time they graduate (Frangou, 2017)
 - On a four-step Zwisch scale, residents needed to reach the third stage ('passive help') to be considered meaningfully autonomous
- The purpose of this quality improvement project is to increase surgical residents' engagement in skills labs by creating structure and accountability
- Goal is to restructure, condense, and standardize

METHODS

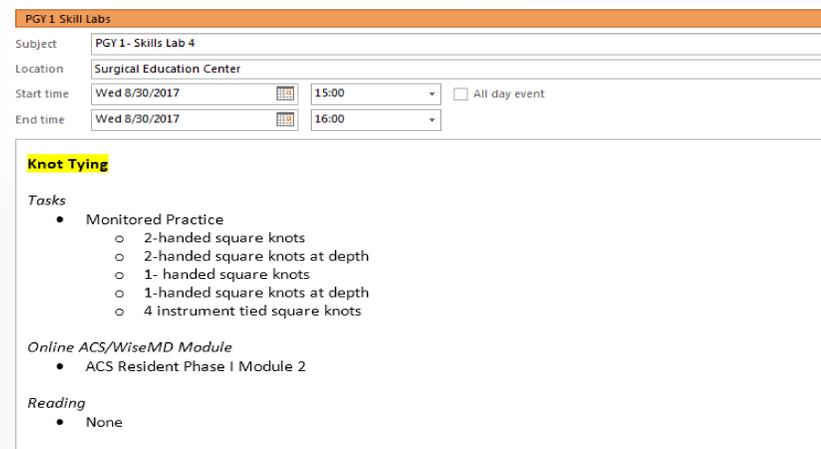
- **Preparatory Research**
 - Collaboration with surgical education center administration, doctors, and residents
 - Surgical education center observations
 - Analysis of current methods of teaching LVHN residents and the available laboratory materials
- **Curriculum and Literature Analysis**
 - Current schedule, pre-laboratory modules/reading, tasks, and post-laboratory evaluations
 - Organized by Post-Graduate Year (PGY) 1-3
 - Previous attendance at skills labs
 - Organized by PGY level and excluding 'preliminary residents' and excused absences
- **Attendance System Implementation**
 - LVHN badge swipe enters resident into attendance log stored on the 'intranet'



OUTCOMES



• Figure 1: Badge-swipe event screen



• Figure 2: Example of a structured skills lab

Conclusion

- Investing in the foundation of surgical residents' skills will enhance the quality of care at LVHN
- Initiative addresses the 'Triple Aim'



- Attendance system is easy to track
 - Organized system will hold residents accountable to each skills lab
 - Low cost and accessible from LVHN's Intranet

Future Implications

- Basis for further study
 - Lack of time put a constraint on measuring outcomes:
 - Will these initiatives lead to an increase in attendance?
 - How will this effect residents' confidence and skills proficiency in the operating room?
- Analysis using post-lab evaluation forms can be used to demonstrate initiative's effectiveness
- Mobile applications can be used by attendings to give timely, constructive feedback to residents
- The next step is to link evaluations of the skills lab to the attendance system using The Learning Curve (TLC) online database

References:
 Frangou, Christina. (2017). App Provides Clues to Resident Competence, Autonomy. *General Surgery News*, Volume 44(7), pp. 1; 14-15. © 2017 Lehigh Valley Health Network