

Necessity for Focused Assessments

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BACKGROUND/TRIGGERS

- Current practice dictates that comprehensive assessments must be completed every four hours on progressive care patients which leads to incidental overtime and employee dissatisfaction.
- Our pre survey showed that 100% of 3A IPCU nurses (n=14) believe that completing focused assessments post an initial comprehensive assessment would decrease incidental overtime and increase employee satisfaction.
- Triggers: incidental overtime and employee dissatisfaction.

PICO

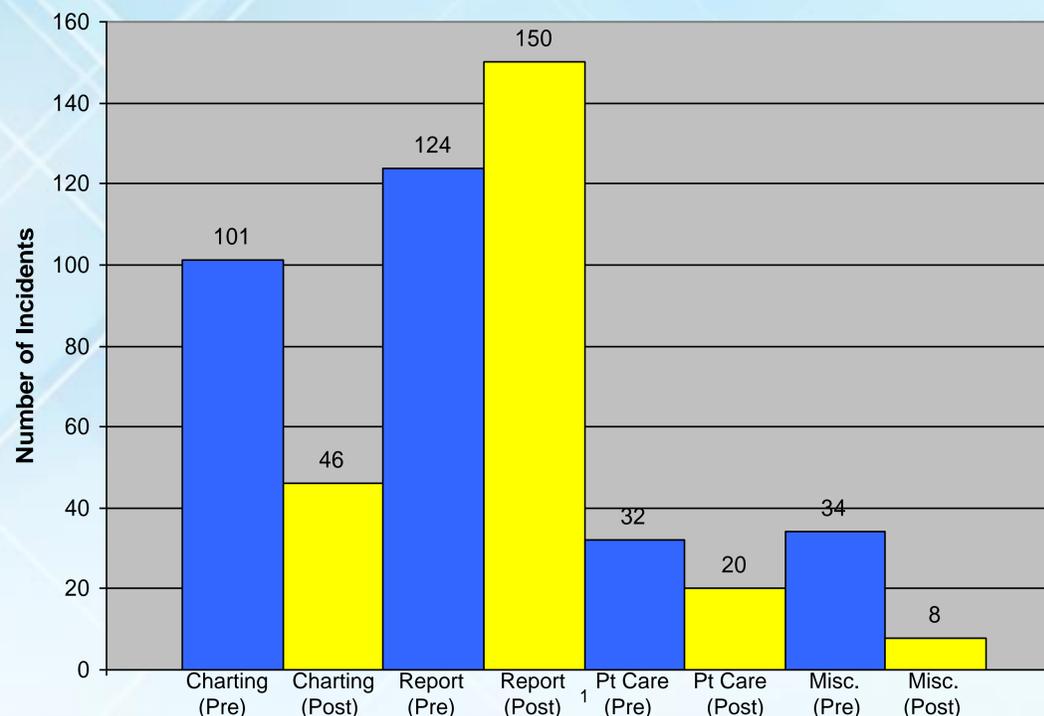
In stable interventional cardiac patients, do focused assessments, following an initial comprehensive assessment compared with all comprehensive assessments, reduce staff overtime without negative patient outcomes?

- P-** Stable interventional cardiac patients
- I-** Focused assessments after initial comprehensive assessments
- C-** All comprehensive assessments
- O-** reduce nursing overtime without negative patient outcomes

EVIDENCE

- Focused charting allowed healthcare providers to retrieve data more efficiently, spend less time charting, reduced overtime hours, and increased nursing productivity (Juanita, 1990).
- Based on studies, there was a 67% reduction in documentation time, which decreased the amount of time for chart review. All patient data are factual, relevant, and clearly recorded. There was a decrease in time spent giving report and overtime accrued which increased employee satisfaction (Short, 1997).
- Between interruptions in care, divided attention, and feeling rushed, nurses reported feeling an increase in their mental workload. With more information to document, nurses felt rushed to complete their work which led to an increased likelihood in nurse burnout and errors (Holden, 2009).
- Fewer hours worked directly correlated with decreased documentation errors (Warren, 2008).

Overtime Audit Report



Causes of Overtime Pre and Post Implementation

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- Staff were provided a pre test to gain input on various topics such as which assessments were most important to specific patient populations.
- Overtime audits were conducted to compare charting related overtime pre and post implementation.
- Inclusion criteria for focused assessment charting was implemented for patients who were post cardiac stent, post pacemaker/ICD implantation, post ablation, post cardiac catheterization awaiting open heart surgery, and patients initiating Tikosyn or Sotalol protocols.
- Stable criteria included patients without complications or change in status.
- Exclusion criteria included complications (e.g., groin bleed, chest pain), change in status, or any other diagnosis other than what was listed in the inclusion criteria.
- Tip sheets listing required assessments were posted at each computer station as reminders.
- Chart audits were completed daily for one month by the unit leadership team to assess and maintain compliance.
- A post survey was sent out to all unit staff for feedback.

OUTCOMES

- With the implementation of focused assessments, overtime due to charting decreased.
- Nurse input post survey results pending.

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