

## Inter-professional Communication Badge Tool between PT and Nursing on a Low Level Unit

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### Published In/Presented At

Gosnell, W. Logue, R. Bowen, M. Chan, V. (2019, August 9). *Inter-professional Communication Badge Tool between PT and Nursing on a Low Level Unit*. Poster presented at: LVHN Vizient/AACN Nurse Residency Program Graduation, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, PA.

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# Inter-professional Communication Badge Tool between PT and Nursing on a Low Level Unit

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## BACKGROUND

- Patient fall prevention is one of the primary priorities in nursing. Patient falls can result in injury which complicates their care and increases length of stay.
- One of the goals of Lehigh Valley Health Network is to prevent patient falls. One of the many ways of accomplishing this goal is increased communication between staff members that are involved with patient ambulation. The focus of this study is communication between Nursing and Physical Therapy.

## PICO

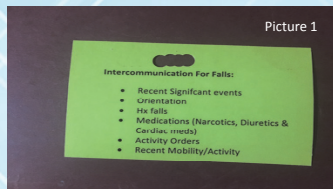
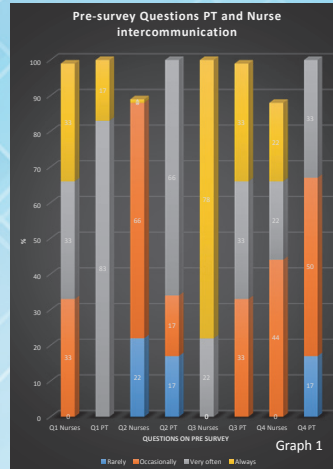
- **P:** RN's & PT's who work with low level patients
- **I:** Standardized badge communication tool
- **C:** No communication tool
- **O:** Improve inter-professional communication between physical therapists and nurses

A badge communication tool was created.

## EVIDENCE

- There are varying ways of communicating between professions. It is shown that having a standardized communication guide or tool increases effectiveness of what was said. (Galatzan & Carrington, 2018).
- Standardized communication tools not only increases effectiveness of communication but increases communication inter-professionally as well (Foronda, Macwilliams, & Mearthur, 2016).
- Specifically with falls communication, catering and individualizing each patients fall prevention also increases positive culture around falls prevention with the staff involved (Etherton-Bear et al., 2016).

## IMPLEMENTATION



A badge communication tool was created for dayshift nurses and physical therapists that are routinely on the floor. Both professions were given a pre-survey to complete before the badge communication tool was given out. 11 nurses and 4 PT's answered the pre-survey. Questions (Q) are as followed:

- Q1- How often are Physical Therapy and nursing staff communicating about patients?
- Q2- How often does [the other profession] update you on a patient before ambulation?
- Q3- How often are you comfortable communicating with [the other profession]?
- Q4- How often does [the other profession] communicate about factors and symptoms affecting ambulation?
- Q5- Do you have any comments or suggestions related to physical therapy and nursing communication?

- The badge tool has essential points derived from answers on the pre-survey, the Hester-Davis fall scale, speaking with bedside nurses, the PCU director, the inpatient rehab manager of LVH-CC, and the project facilitator.
- Each question had a multiple choice answer with the exception of Q5. Each person participating in the study was supposed to receive a communication badge shown in Picture 1. Both professions were briefed on the study and how to utilize the communication tool. After completing the surveys, most RN's received the badge but none of the PT's received the badge.

## OUTCOMES

- A post-survey was given after a month of implementing the communication badge on the floor.
- Three post-surveys were completed by PT. 7 Nurses completed the post-survey. Pre- and post-survey questions were identical. The table below shows post-survey data. There was no significant change in satisfaction with inter-professional communication based on our study.

POST SURVEY	Q1 N	Q1 PT	Q2 N	Q2 PT	Q3 N	Q3 PT	Q4 N	Q4 PT
RARELY	0%	0%	28%	0%	0%	0%	14%	0%
OCCASIONALLY	14%	0%	43%	67%	0%	0%	28%	33%
VERY OFTEN	72%	67%	14%	33%	0%	0%	43%	67%
ALWAYS	14%	33%	14%	0%	100%	100%	14%	0%

## NEXT STEPS

- Moving forward, a professionally created standardized communication tool can be created for all RN and PT's at LVHN. Acquiring more feedback from both professions is a key factor in improving the overall collaboration in the goal of preventing patient falls.

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