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# Flushing Policy Compliance on Central Lines

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## BACKGROUND

- Many patients undergoing chemotherapy treatments have central lines called ports placed. These devices help preserve their veins and allow for easier venous access for medication administration and blood draws.
  - RNs are accessing lines on admission
  - Patients might not always need continuous medication
  - Is patency being maintained in these cases through flushing?
  - How often is flushing being performed?
  - Are orders being placed for flushes to be done every shift?

## PICO

- **P - Patients with central lines**
- **I - Nursing education on flushing order entry for central lines**
- **C - No intervention/current practice**
- **O - Affects flushing order entry compliance**

## EVIDENCE

- Ports should be flushed with between 10-20 mL NSS (Chou et al., 2019; Wu et al., 2018)
- Flushing ports in general, especially while using pulsatile technique, is a simple but effective technique to reduce bacterial colonization of central lines (Ferroni et al., 2014)
- Pulsatile technique is more effective at removing solid deposits than continuous flushing (Boord, 2019)

## OUTCOMES

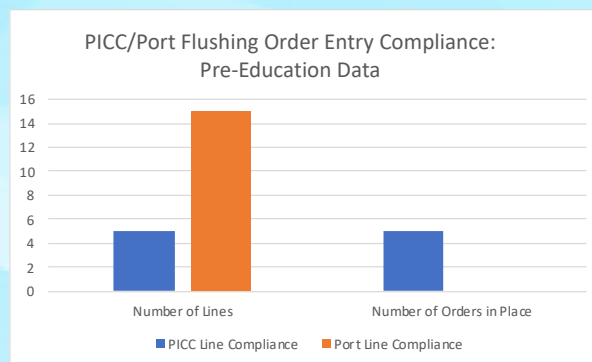


Figure 1: Of the observed patients, the five patients that had PICC lines all had flushing orders. In the 15 patients with ports, 0 patients had flushes ordered.

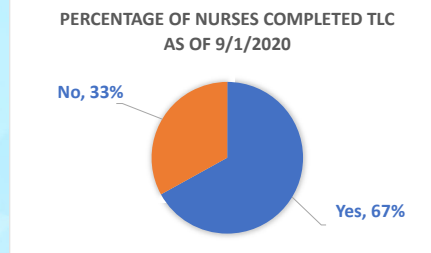


Figure 2: After pre-education data was collected, TLC was sent out to all nurses on SKS and ST. Of these nurses, 67% completed the TLC by the due date.

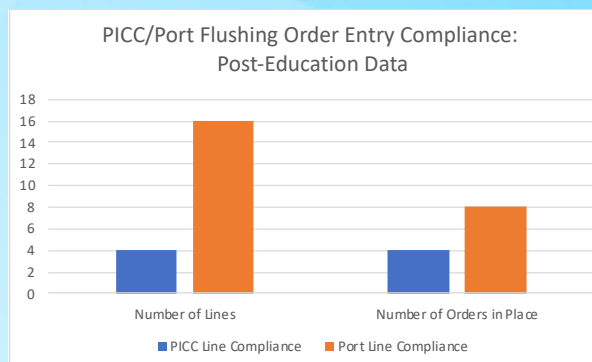


Figure 3: After the education was provided, PICC lines had 100% flush compliance, and port flush compliance rose to 50%.

## IMPLEMENTATION

- Chart audits were performed prior to education and after education to evaluate compliance in flushing orders.
- TLC education was assigned to RN's on 5T and 5KS on August 14th. RN's were given until August 22nd to complete the TLC.
- Post education chart audits were completed after August 22nd.

## NEXT STEPS

- Place reminders around unit at nurses stations
- Provide additional education if desired
- Continue to monitor
- Provide feedback to staff about performances
- Acknowledge compliance

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