

Problem Statement

- At a community hospital, a 41-bed surgical unit lacks an evidence-based method of creating patient assignments, resulting in unbalanced nursing staff workload
- Patient assignments have historically been based on unit layout geography versus patient acuity
- Fall rates increased from 7 falls in 2020 to 16 falls in 2022
- Turn-and-reposition compliance was 40.5% in August 2023

Purpose & Goals

This project aims to apply the Perroca patient acuity tool (PPAT) based on specific unit needs to assess PPAT compliance and its effect on patient outcomes during a 15-week period.

- 80% of charge nurses will utilize the PPAT for shift assignments
- 80% of staff nurses will accurately identify patient acuity via PPAT
- 20% improvement in turn and reposition rates
- 20% reduction in patient fall rates

Methods

Problem Identification & Application of Evidence-Based Practice:

- Literature shows patient outcomes and quality of care are significantly improved after implementation of the **Perroca patient acuity tool**

Education:

- Acuity score training via PPAT teaching tool and mock patient scenarios

Implementation

- PPAT utilization for nursing assignments

Data Collection & Analysis

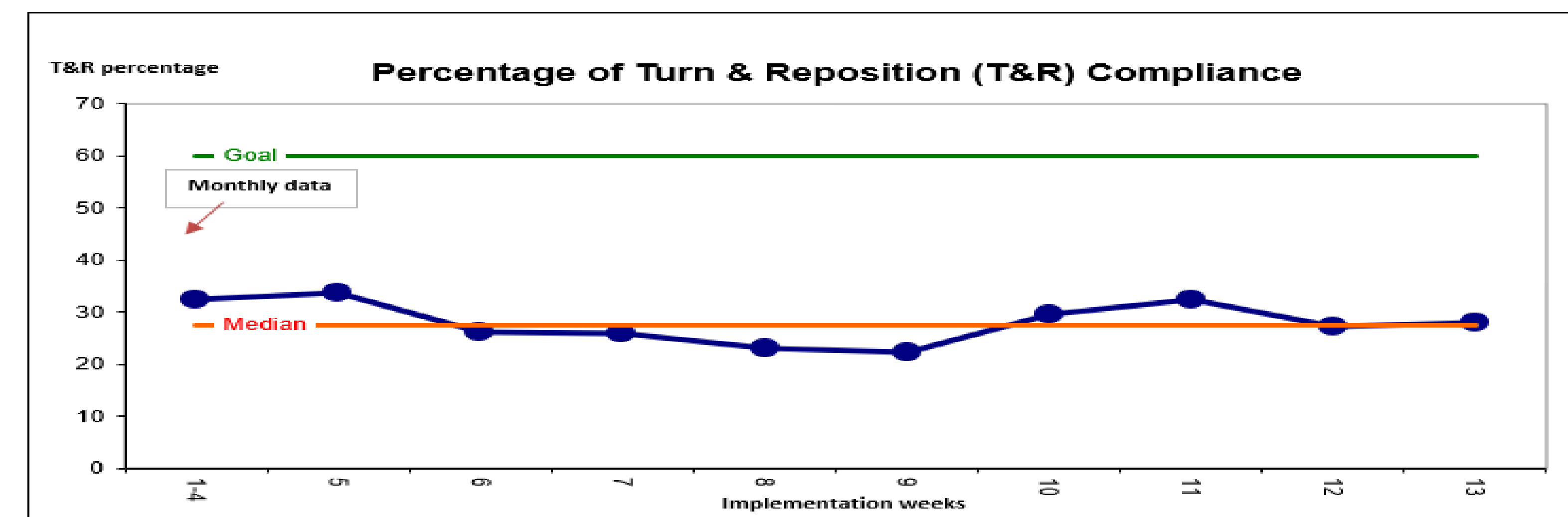
- Weekly randomized chart audits

PPAT & Teaching Tool

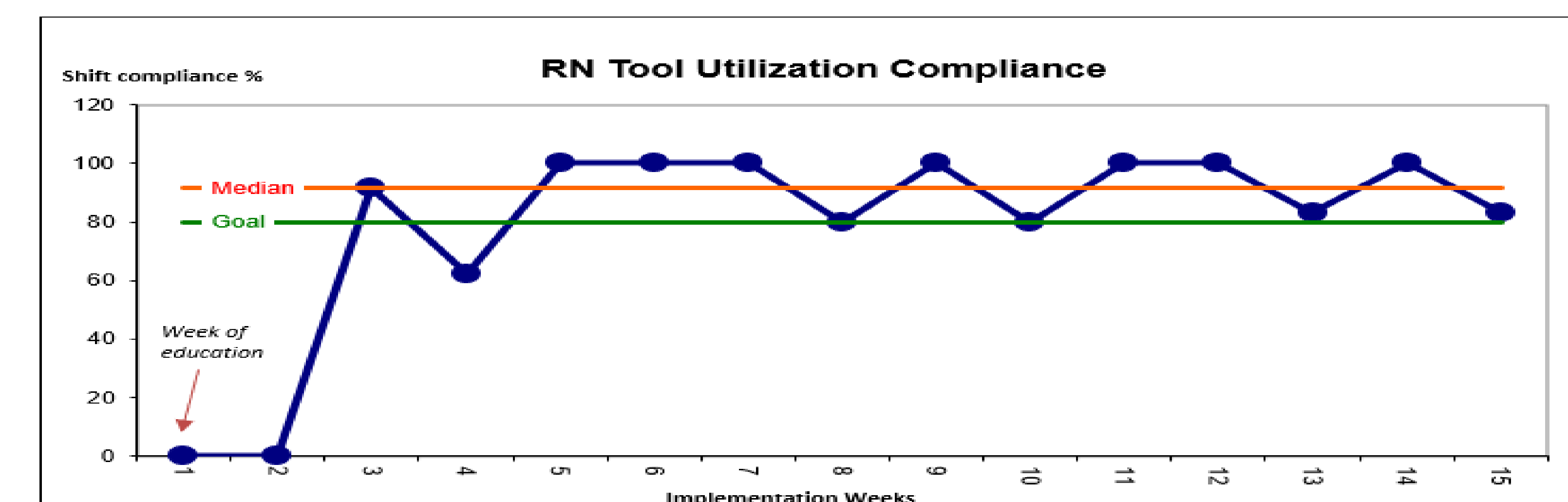
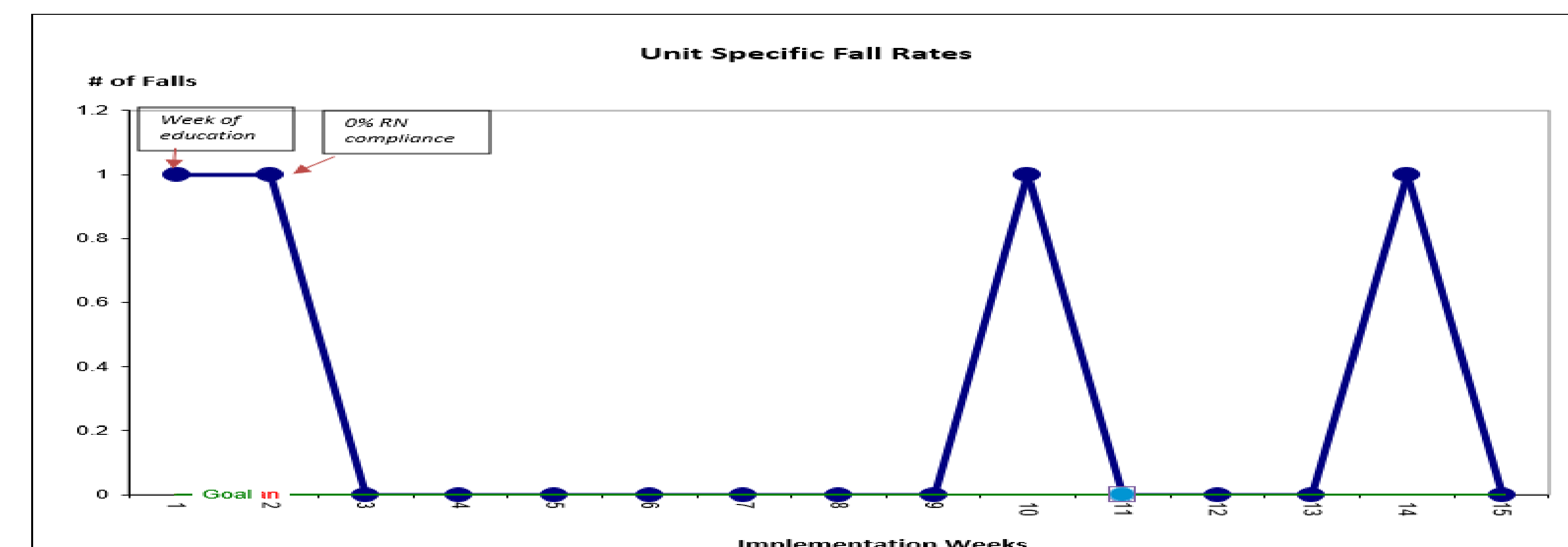


Results

Outcome measures: Turn and reposition rates; Fall rates; RN tool utilization compliance



Note: Data for weeks 1-4 T&R compliance was only available monthly, representing the month of September.



Discussion

- During week 1 of implementation, tool utilization was at 0%
- At close of week 15, tool utilization was at 80%
- Acuity tool only completed for the 7am and 7pm shifts
- Acuity tool not updated for 3pm shift and falls typically occurred during hours of 1500-1900
- The monthly hospital data collection for turn-and-reposition rates was eliminated during implementation
- Charge nurses used the tool 76.7% of the time to make nurse assignments

Conclusions

- No statistically significant relationship established between acuity tool compliance and turn-and-reposition rates
- There was a 20% improvement in falls rates post implementation; however, this could be multifactorial
- Nursing assignments were equitable post-implementation
- Charge nurses expressed frustrations regarding the increased time/effort to make assignments
- **Sustainability:** moving forward, the site hospital plans to utilize artificial intelligence to promote equity among patient acuity, workload and nursing shift assignments

References

