

Decreasing First Case Delays to the Operating Room with Handoff Standardization

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Problem Statement

First case on-time start (FCOTS):

- Evaluates operating room (OR) efficiency
- Greatly influences budgeting, staffing, scheduling, patient safety & patient satisfaction

Problem Statement:

At a large community hospital, in the ambulatory surgical area, FCOTS reports show that in April, May, and June 2024, 31% of late cases had delays involving pre-operative nursing handoff and tasks.

Key Stakeholders: Project Lead, CSR, Clinical Supervisors, Hospital Leaders, Patients, Staff

Purpose

To decrease first case delays to the OR and improve documentation compliance, by implementing a standardized, Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation (SBAR) based, electronic nurse handoff.

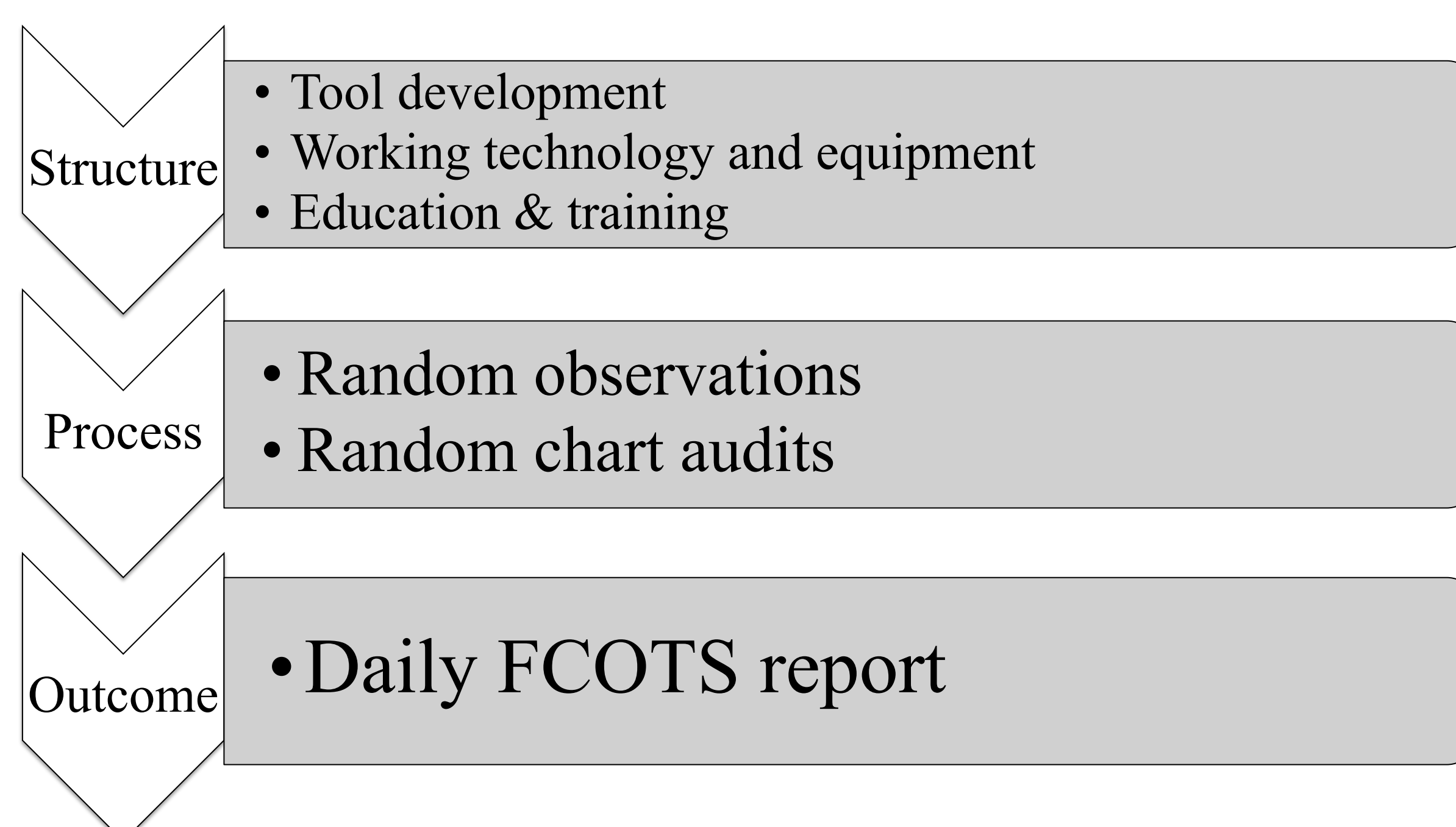
PROCESS GOALS

1. 100% of pre-op nurses will utilize handoff tool in Epic to provide standardized handoff
2. 100% of pre-op nurses will document that handoff was completed

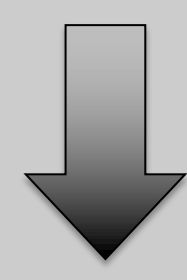
OUTCOME GOAL

Zero first-case delays to OR, related to pre-op nurse handoff or tasks

Methods



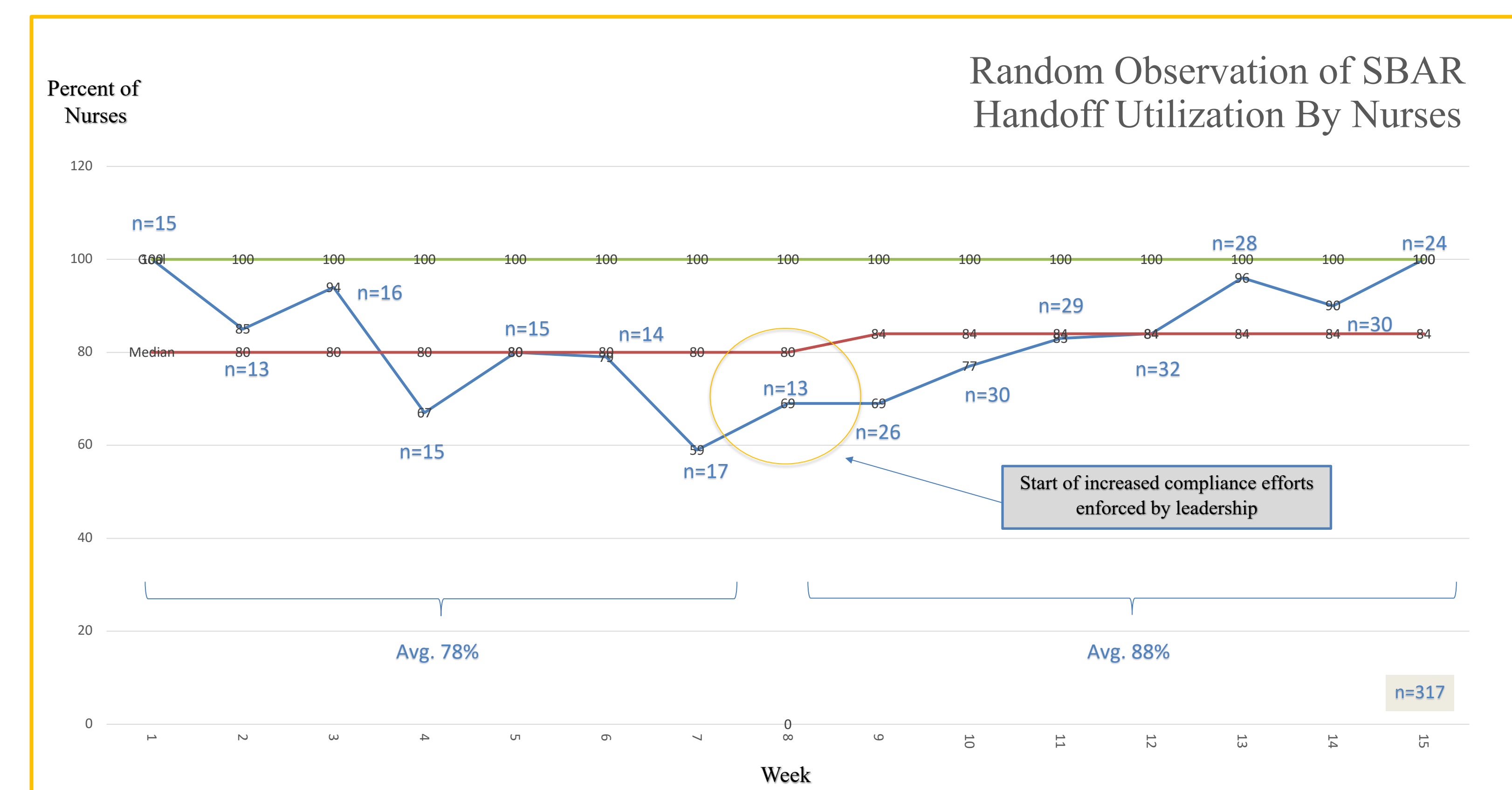
Results

Pre-Implementation	Post-Implementation
Late cases due to handoff and pre-op tasks: 31% (n=113) Total Cases observed (n=905) Late cases (n=361)	Late cases due to handoff and pre-op tasks:  17% (n=93) Total Cases observed (n=1,190) Late cases (n=548)
Handoff Documentation Completed 75% (n=90)	Handoff Documentation Completed 75% (n=120)

During implementation, 46% (n=548) of OR cases observed (n= 1,190) were late to the OR.

Of the late cases, 17% (n=93) were late due to pre-operative nurse handoff and tasks.

Handoff Documentation was not significantly changed, pre and post implementation, both at 75% (n= 90 pre and n=120 post).



Random observation of nurse SBAR use, showed that SBAR handoff was used 82% (n=317) of the time during implementation.

Discussion

Significant decrease in delays in FCOTS

No significant increase in handoff documentation

Barriers identified with unit leaders and changes/improvements put into place at week 8:

- ✓ Daily in-person rounding
- ✓ Frequent spot chart audits
- ✓ One-on-one conversations regarding non-compliance

Top Reasons for Delay:

1. Anesthesia consent incomplete
2. Patient to bathroom late
3. Pre-op nurse busy with another patient

Conclusions

Standardizing SBAR handoff from pre-op to OR nurses, is a **little-to-no cost** intervention, proven to decrease delays in FCOTS.

Sustainability

- Buy-in and support is needed from:
 - Hospital & Unit Leadership
 - IT Department
 - Nursing staff

Continuation

- Monthly chart audits for documentation compliance
- Weekly reminder/check-in by unit leaders
 - Enhanced if decline is noted

References & Acknowledgements



Scan for Reference List

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