

Implementing a Standardized Competency Checklist for Intrauterine Device Placement

Molly Broache, MSN, CRNP-OB/GYN | Patricia McLaughlin, DNP, CRNP | University of Maryland School of Nursing, Baltimore MD

Problem Statement

- Women desiring intrauterine device (IUD) placement at an outpatient women's health clinic (WHC) do not have access to timely appointments due to the low number of advanced practice providers (APPs) trained to insert IUDs.
- While IUD insertion is generally considered safe, complications such as uterine perforation, uterine expulsion and difficult removal can occur, making it critical for providers to be properly trained.
- Evidence supports a practice change to include a formal IUD training program.

Purpose

The purpose of this QI project is to increase the number of skilled IUD placement practitioners at WHC by implementing a formal IUD competency program.

Structure

Develop a formalized competency assessment program for IUD insertion

Process Goals

- 100% of APPs complete formal IUD education day
- 100% of APPs complete IUD competency program (standardized competency checklist)

Outcome Goals

100% of APPs competent in IUD insertion and able to independently insert IUDs

Methods

Intervention

A formal IUD training and competency assessment program was implemented over a 15-week period in the Fall of 2024.

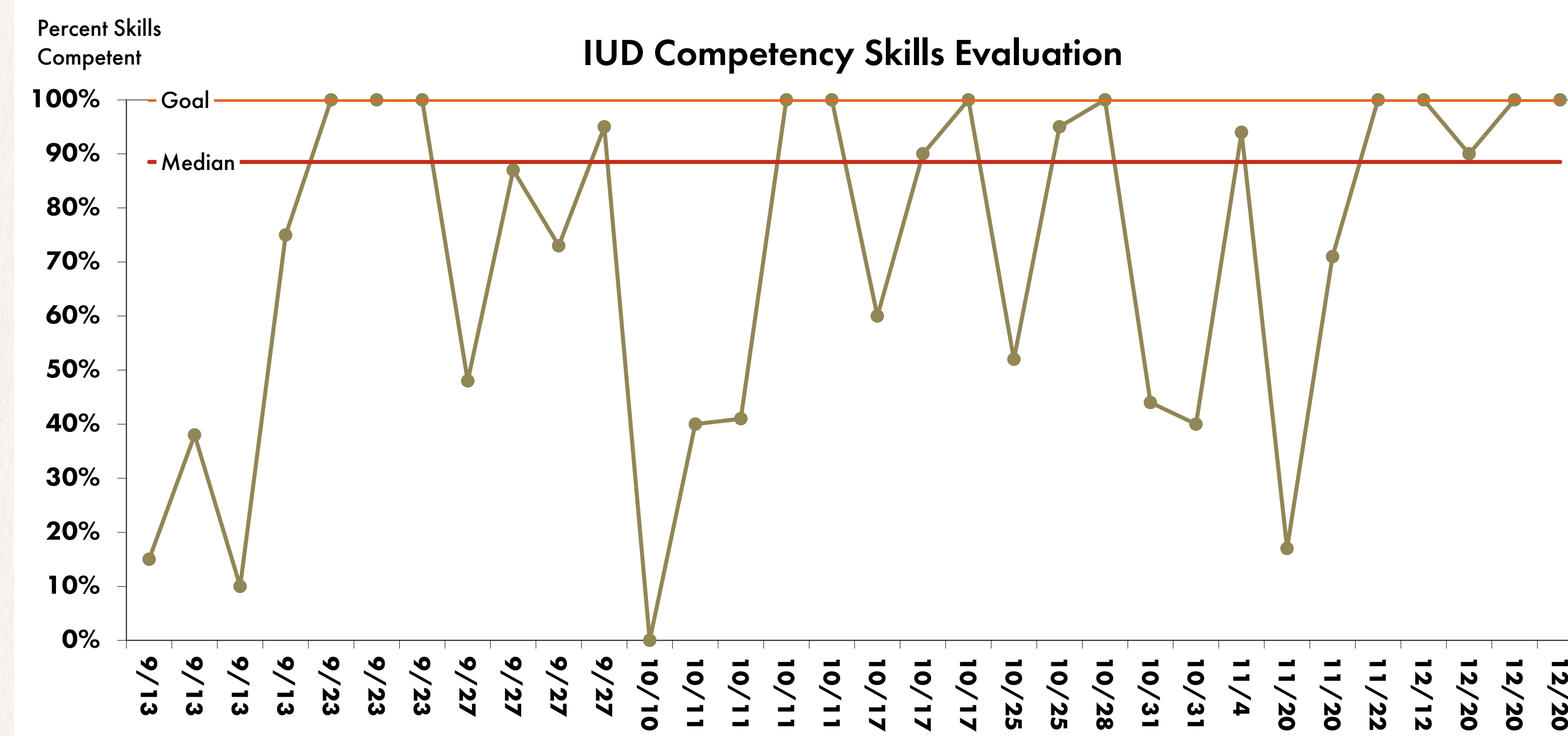
Setting

Outpatient women's health clinic associated with a large academic medical center

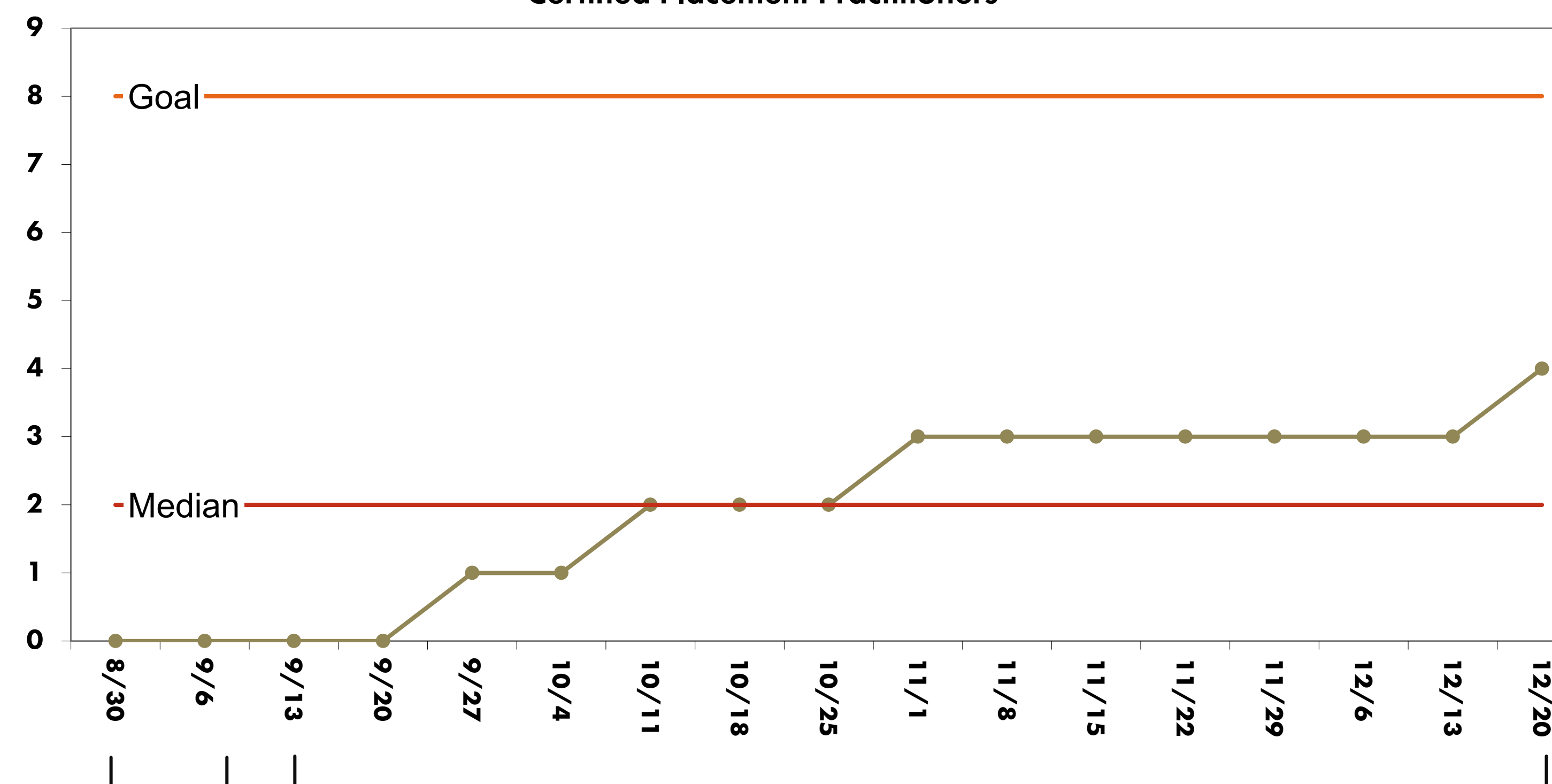
Strategies and Tactics

- APPs that participated in the educational day completed the IUD competency assessment program:
 - Two successful observations for APPs who have inserted IUDs within the last three years
 - Five successful observations for new APPs
- Three experienced IUD providers evaluated IUD insertion skills
- QI project lead ensured QI project progression and presented to clinic for IUD competency assessments
- The tool that was used to assess IUD insertion competencies was an evidence-based checklist developed by the University of California San Francisco Beyond the Pill Program, which the QI project lead was given permission to use for this project.

Results

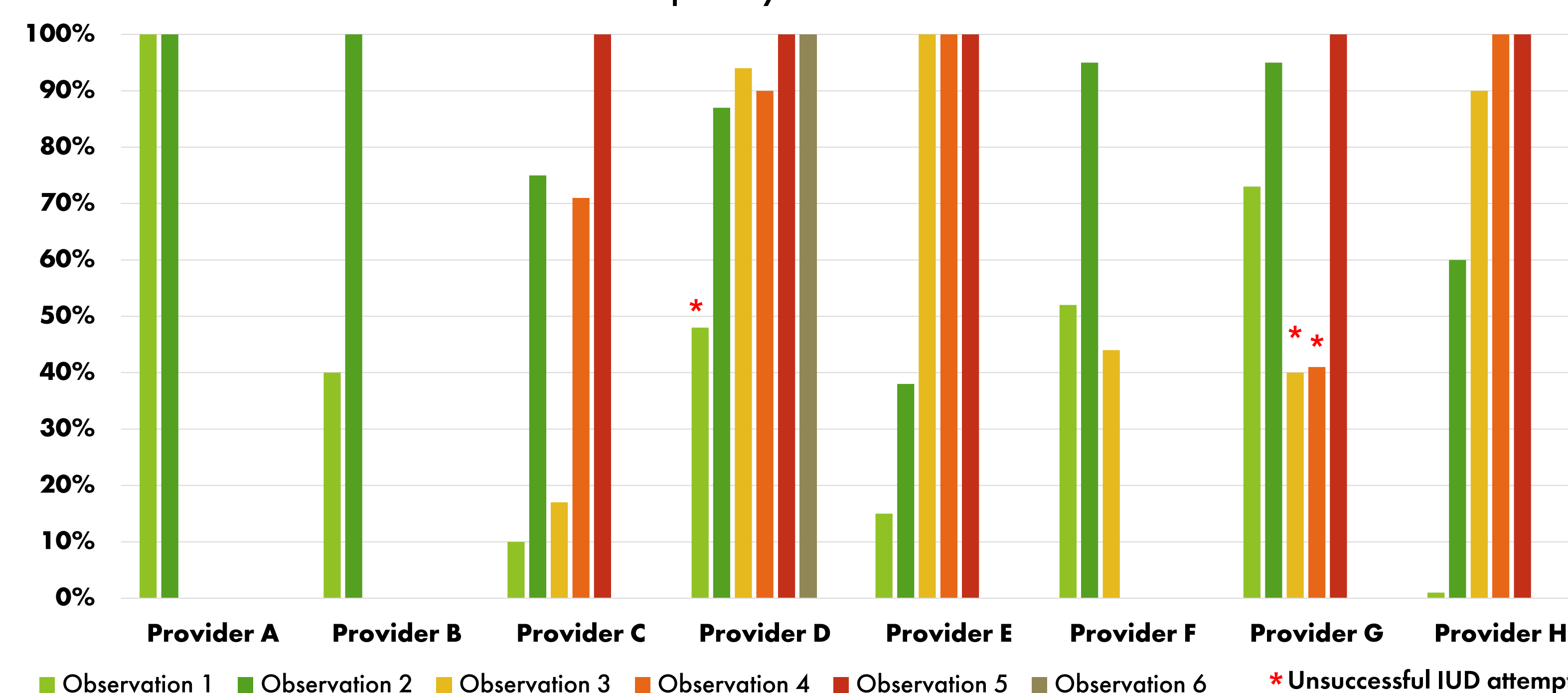


Certified Placement Practitioners



Pre-Intervention: IUD Training | Intervention: IUD Competency Assessments

IUD Competency Assessment Scores



Discussion

- All eight APPs completed the Bayer educational session and participated in at least two IUD insertion evaluations.
- Four APPs completed all competency assessments.
- Of the 32 competency assessments completed, percent competence ranged from 0% to 100%, with a median of 89%.

Facilitators

- Strong culture at WHC that emphasizes patient safety
- APPs invested in program and excited to have formalized training for IUD insertion

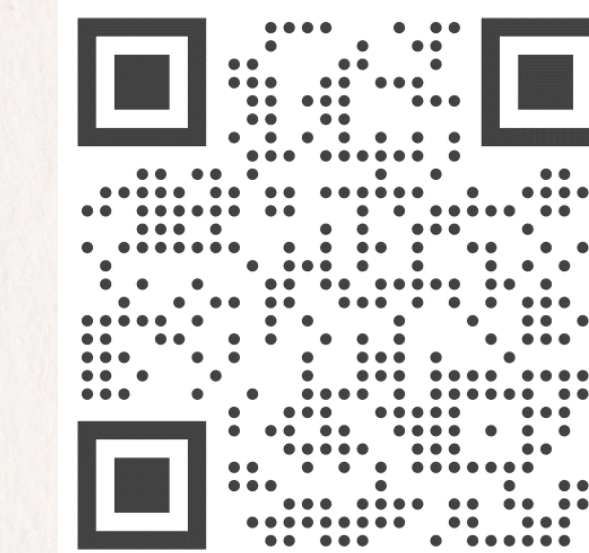
Limitations

- Schedule changes (for both patients and providers) reduced number of openings for IUD competency assessments
- Checklist was lengthy and not all questions on checklist applicable for every IUD insertion

Conclusion

- 50% of the APPs that participated in this program completed all competency assessments required to independently insert IUDs.
- APPs that participated in the program have shown increased competence level as they progress through each observed IUD placement.
- Having more trained APPs at this clinic will allow patients easier access to IUD placement appointments and will ensure that APPs have the proper skills to ensure safe IUD placement.

References



Acknowledgements

- The staff at my QI project site, especially Heather Schwantes (clinical site representative), Dr. Andrea Collierus (medical director), Heather Kennedy (RN) and Monique Klapka (CNM)
- Anayah Ayoka CNM, MSN, MEd, Senior Medical Educator at Bayer, for providing Mirena training
- The UCSF Bixby Center Beyond the Pill Program (beyondthepill.ucsf.edu) for providing rights to use the competency checklist for purposes of this project
- Dr. Linda Cook, second reader for manuscript
- Dr. Patricia McLaughlin, faculty advisor