

A Guide To Pediatric Wellness through Utilization of Dragon Commands

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Background

- As primary care providers, one of our most **critical roles** is to provide **pediatric preventative healthcare** (1).
- Wellness visits play an important role in this by, **tracking appropriate growth and developmental milestones**. Nutrition and early interventions have showed promise for improving developmental issues (5).
- The **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Bright Futures** provide a summary of recommendations, that include a schedule of screenings, procedures and guidance based on age (1).
- In a study evaluating **79 clinics across the Carolinas**, it found a **substantial decrease** in both **wellness and follow up visits** (4). These missed wellness visits have led to missed immunizations, **delayed presentation of new onset conditions like type 1 diabetes** and worsening management of chronic conditions like obesity (4).
- Currently, an estimated **12-16%** of children have **developmental disorders**, out of which only **30% were diagnosed before entering school** (7).
- In the United States, only 57% of mothers reported their children received developmental screening during their wellness visits (5).
- Lehmann 2015 found that **Health IT** tailored to the needs of pediatric health care providers **can improve care** by **reducing** the likelihood of **errors**.

Objective

The objective of the quality improvement project was to **streamline pediatric wellness exams**, through the utilization of **dictation device commands** to enable providers to provide **evidence based and thorough** examinations, ultimately providing superior care to their pediatric patients.

Methods

Based on American Academy of Pediatrics **Bright Futures guidelines**, a **template** was created for wellness visits at **major milestones** from the **first week of life till 18-21** years old. The templates include **subjective data** important to address during wellness visits, **objective data** including major **physical exam** findings to observe, screening **tests** to order and **vaccination** guidelines based on age. The templates were then converted to **dictation software dictation commands** and saved under “Pediatric Wellness Visit” group. The first phase of the project involved emailing both dictation software command and word document versions of the templates, including instructions on how to use the commands to residents of the Family Medicine Residency Program. A pre-intervention and post intervention(**12-month mark**) survey was administered to **study** the average **comfort** providers had documenting pediatric wellness visits, **use of dictation device** in their workflow and average use of the pediatric wellness commands. Providers were also given an opportunity to **provide feedback** on modifications they would like to see to improve the utility of the commands.

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Results

Pediatric Wellness Visit (n=18)

	Absolutely	Moderately	Not at All
Comfort Providing Care	75%	12%	13%
Providing Comprehensive Care	75%	15%	10%

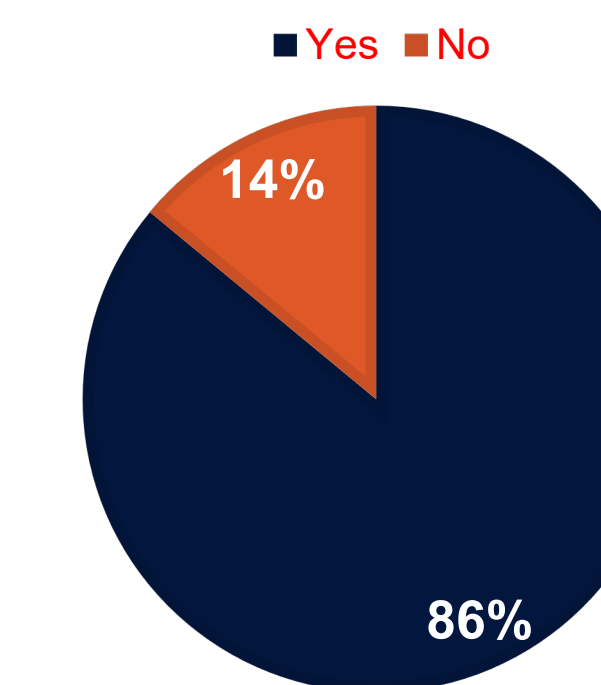
Survey Results from Pre- and Post-Implementation of Pediatric Templates

	Pre-Implementation (n=18)	Post-Implementation (n=18)
Comfort Providing Care	75%	85%
Comfort using dictation software	75%	90%
Use of Commands in Work-Flow	66%	75%

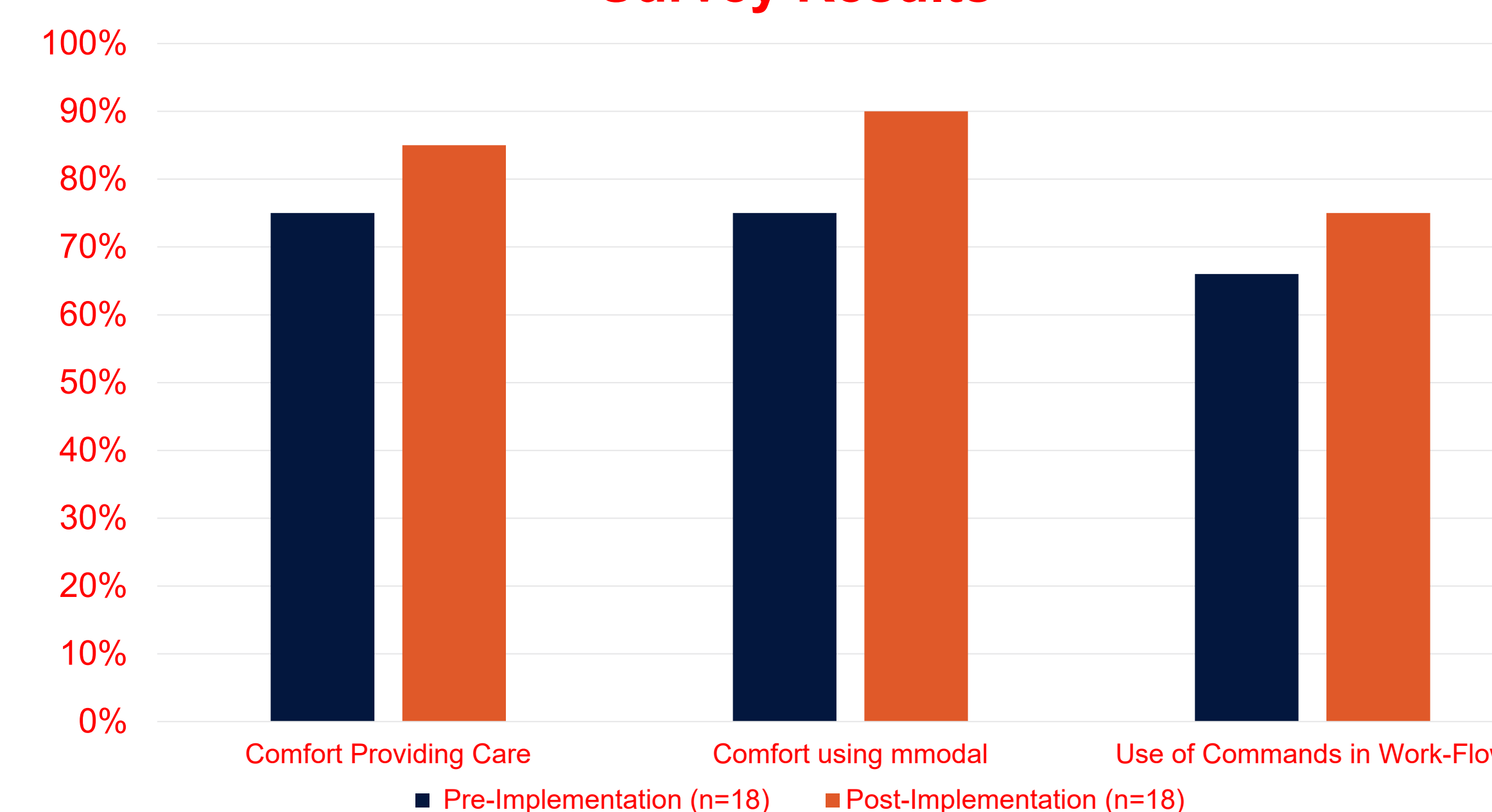
Pediatric Template Review

	Post Survey (n=18)
Use of Templates	86%
Efficacy of Templates	100%

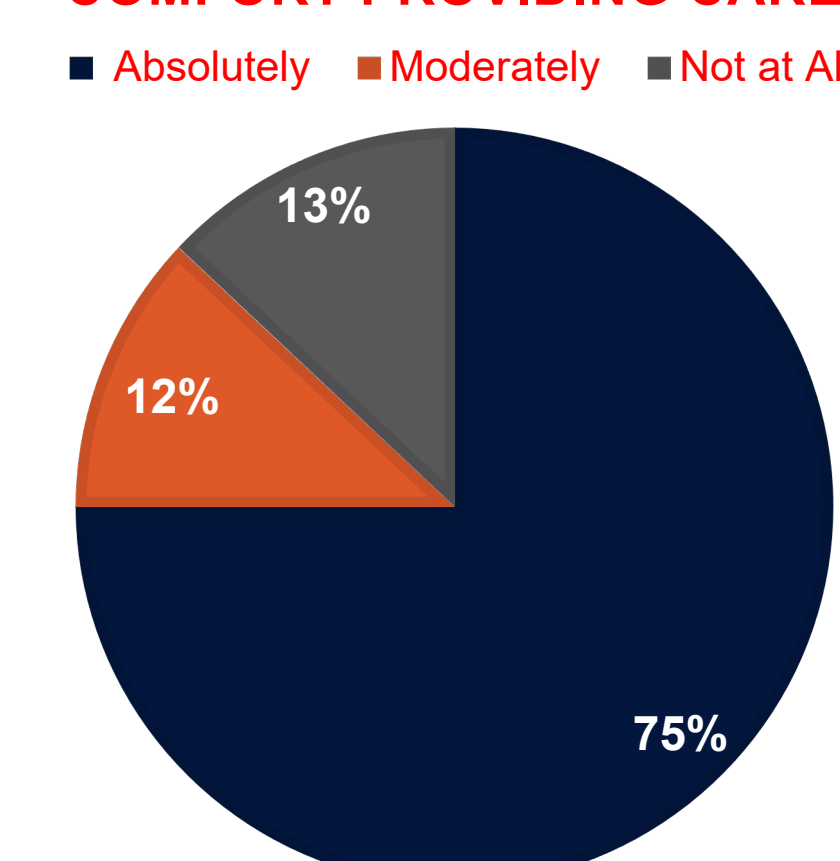
USE OF PEDIATRIC TEMPLATES



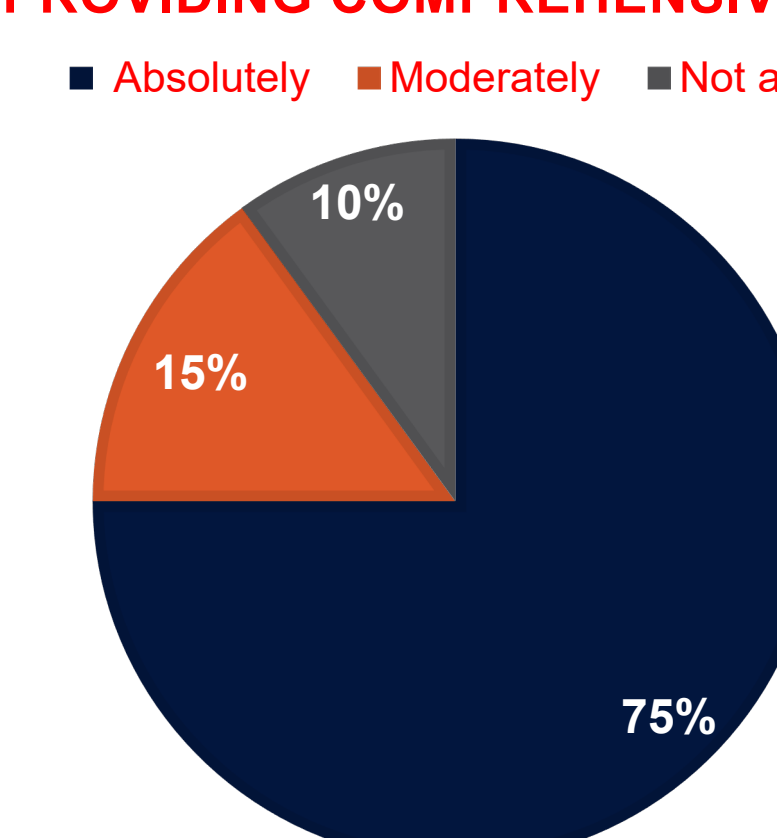
Survey Results



COMFORT PROVIDING CARE



PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE CARE



Discussion

The **importance** of wellness visits are well established as a chance to **discover acute and chronic disorders early** (3). Early intervention programs, from birth to 5 years old have been shown to score higher in math’s and fewer grade retention by age 15, relative to children treated between ages 5 to 8 (7). In our **unique position as primary care providers**, we should **incorporate** standardized developmental **surveillance protocols** outlined by the AAP (1). While most providers are aware of the protocols in broad strokes, we found that they were **not being incorporated** into clinical visits **adequately**. Furthermore, as healthcare **moves towards** further integration with **Information Technology**, utilizing **tools** such as dictation commands and EHR (electronic health record) templates would **improve** the quality of **healthcare** provided to patients. Based on our study, there was a **20% increase in confidence** in providing wellness visits after implementing the pediatric wellness visit commands. Post survey noted that 75% of our study group was confident using the dictation software device, out of which 65% of users were confident using templates in their workflow. Utilization of different modalities including creating templates on EHR would possibly increase the utility of the pediatric wellness visit templates and include individuals that aren’t as confident using the dictation software device. A child’s brain is highly adaptable, especially in the first three years of life (7). In March of 2020, the CDC posted guidelines emphasizing the importance of routine wellness visits and immunizations, especially for children less than 2 years old (2). As family medicine physicians it is our duty to ensure we provide efficient and through wellness exams, especially in our pediatric patients.

Conclusion

- Use of commands showed an increase in use of commands in clinic work-flow, providing comprehensive wellness exams and overall care to pediatric patients.
- There was 88% utility of templates, which may be attributed to the vector the pediatric templates were utilized with.
- Greater utilization may be obtained by incorporating multiple vectors including digital checklists that can be given to patients and integrated templates in electronic medical records like EHR.
- As family medicine physicians it is our duty to ensure we provide efficient and through wellness exams, especially in our pediatric patients.

References

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