

Descriptive Assessment of the Pediatric Emergency Team System: The Memorial Health University Medical Center Experience

Ashley N. Cheek, DO; Lauren Hebert, MD; Sunil Keshwah, MD; Jessica Lee, MD

Pediatrics Department

Memorial Health University Medical Center/Dwaine and Cynthia Willett Children's Hospital of Savannah

Disclosures

- None

MERCER
UNIVERSITY



This research was supported (in whole or in part) by HCA Healthcare and/or an HCA Healthcare affiliated entity. The views expressed in this publication represent those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of HCA Healthcare or any of its affiliated entities.

HCA 
HealthcareSM

Background

- At Memorial Health University Medical Center (MHUMC), the rapid response team is known as the Pediatric Emergency Team (PET)
- Composed of multidisciplinary health professionals
- PET purpose: bring critical care expertise to bedside and help before clinical deterioration
- Study aim: Assess the current PET process at MHUMC and identify potential areas of performance and process improvement
- Hypothesis: Improvement needed in communication, leadership, and documentation

Study Design/Methods

- Prospective observational study, single-center children's hospital
- Inclusion criteria: children (age 0-18 years) admitted to MHUMC during the pre- and post- intervention phase (i.e. 2/1-5/1/22 & 9/1/22-12/1/22 respectively) who experienced a PET call
- Exclusion criteria: patients >18 years of age, non-admitted children, code blue, or staff assist cases
- Physicians completed observation sheets regarding team dynamics, communication, documentation, and patient care
- Developed multiple educational interventions based on findings
- Post-intervention analysis

Study Interventions

- Formed multidisciplinary PET process committee
- Created PET call template for standardized documentation
- Clearly defined PET team member roles and duty responsibilities
- Provided education refresher
- Conducted multidisciplinary PET simulation session

Results: Pre-Intervention/Post-Intervention

PRE-INTERVENTION

- 14 total PET calls
- **7% standardized documentation**
- **50% no clear leader**
- **64% initial SBAR**
- 64% occurred at night
- 50% respiratory complaints

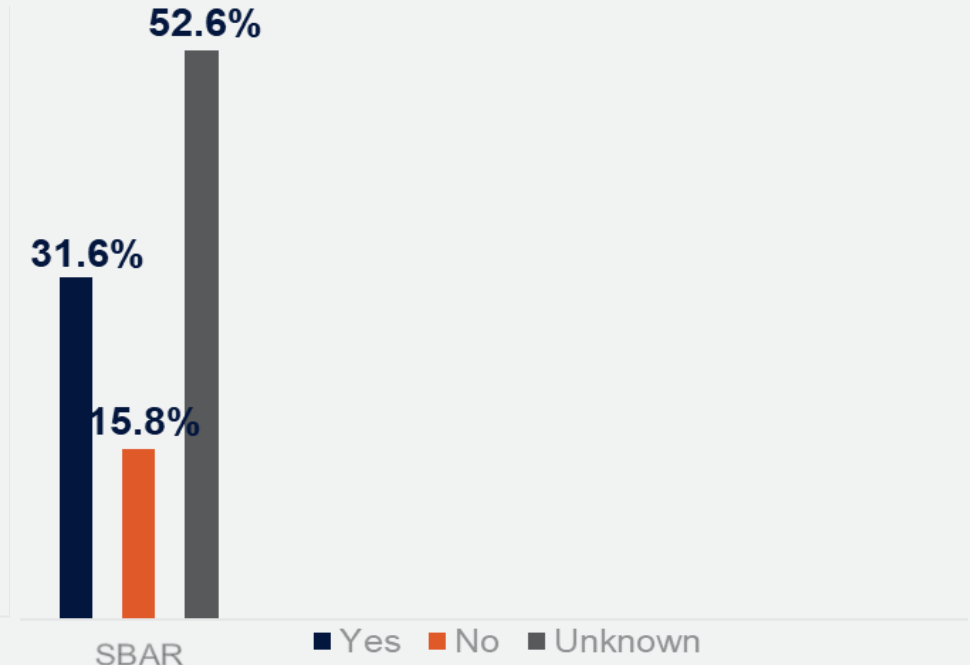
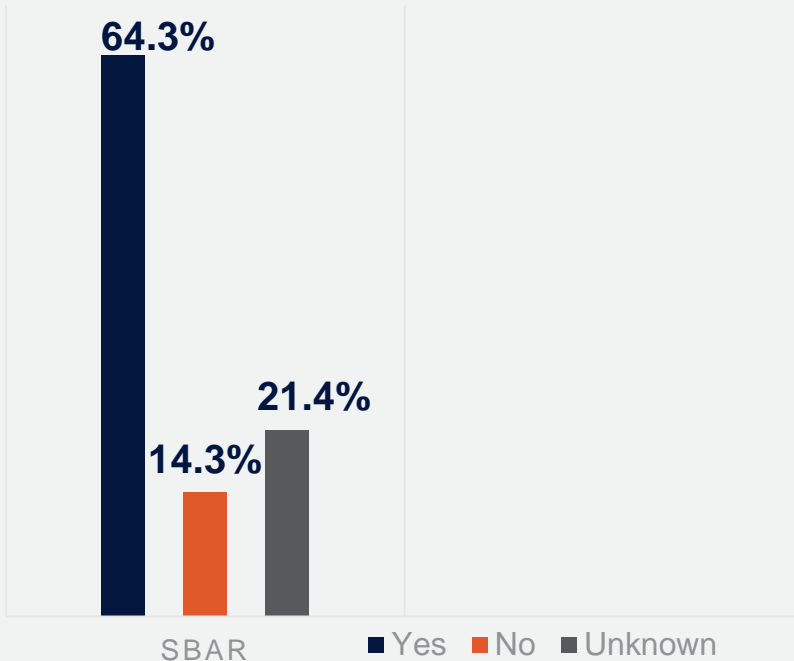
POST-INTERVENTION

- 19 total PET calls
- **64% standardized documentation**
- **64% no clear leader**
- **32% initial SBAR**
- 58% occurred at night
- 79% respiratory complaints

Results: Pre-Intervention/Post-Intervention

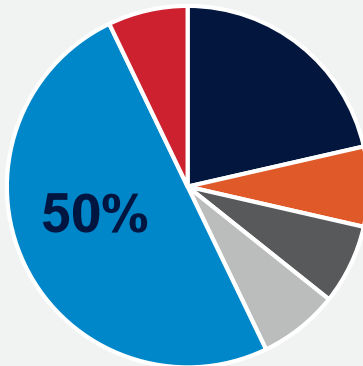
SBAR USE PRE-INTERVENTION

SBAR USE POST-INTERVENTION



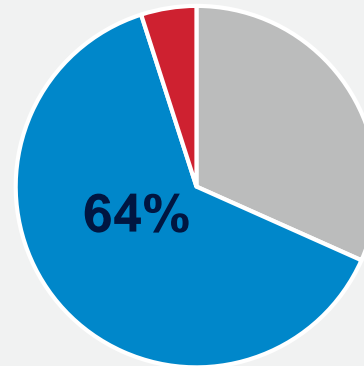
Results: Pre-Intervention/Post-Intervention

Pre-Intervention: PET Call Leader



PET RN
 Bedside RN
 Charge RN
 Peds Resident
 None/Unclear
 Other

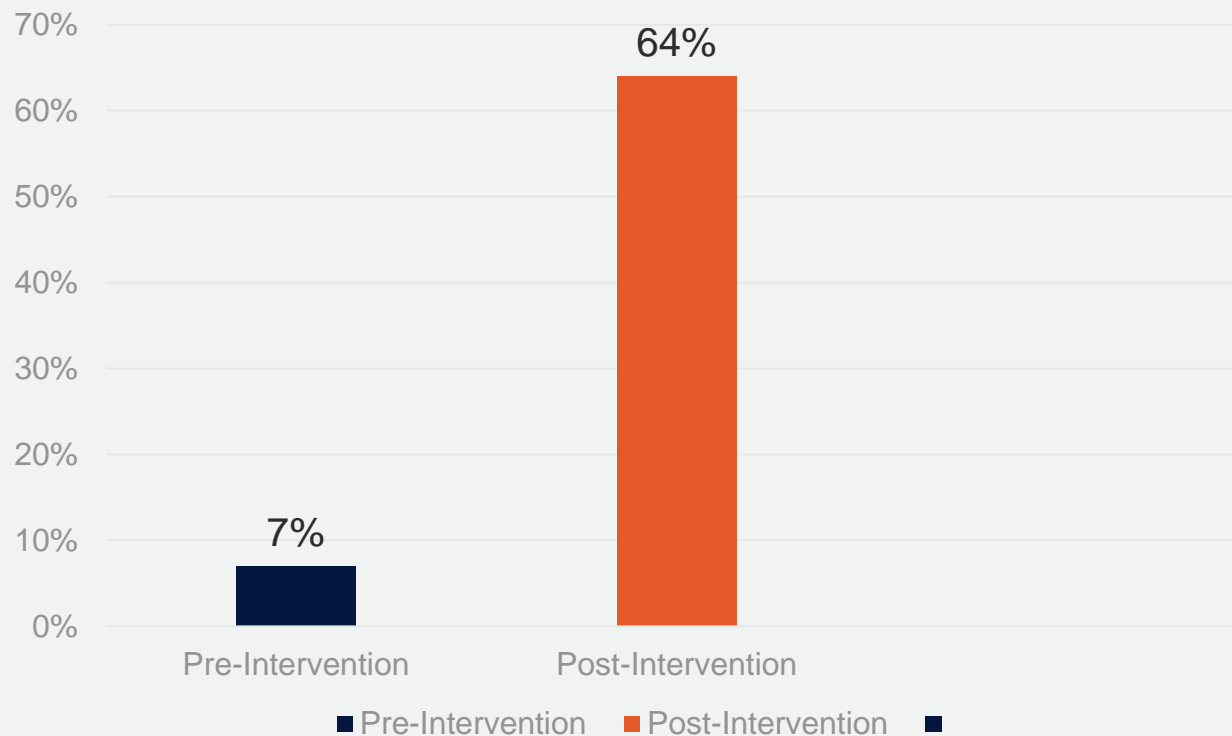
Post-Intervention: PET Call Leader



PET RN
 Bedside RN
 Charge RN
 Peds Resident
 None/Unclear
 Other

Results: Pre-Intervention/Post-Intervention

Occurrence of Standardized Documentation



Conclusions

- Inconsistent documentation, team dynamics, and communication practices exist with current PET call process
- Standardization of documentation improved recorded information
- PET leader identification and SBAR communication use remained low despite educational intervention
- Team dynamics and communication continue to be ongoing QI growth opportunities

Limitations

- Single-center study
- Reporter bias
- Lack of third-party observer data collection
- Missing data (inconsistent data reporting)

Next Steps

- Continued leadership reinforcement of standardized template use, assumption of team member roles and duties, and SBAR communication
- Repeat post-intervention phase with use of third-party observer
- Continued and more frequent multidisciplinary PET simulations (biannual or quarterly basis)

Acknowledgements

- Many thanks to the CHOS RNs, RTs, and staff who also recognized the need for improvement and helped support this project
- Special thanks to Drs. Lee, Hebert, and Keshwah for their support
- Final thanks to our patients – the little ones who keep us searching for process improvement