

Exploring the Value of a Resident-led Team Huddle on an Inpatient Medicine Unit

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Purpose

The Joint Commission's 2013 report on sentinel events suggests communication is a common cause of medical errors.¹ Interprofessional huddles increase communication, allow for patient-care planning, and improve relationships among providers.² The purpose of this study was to identify and describe the essential elements of effective interprofessional communication within an inpatient clinical setting team "huddle."

Methods

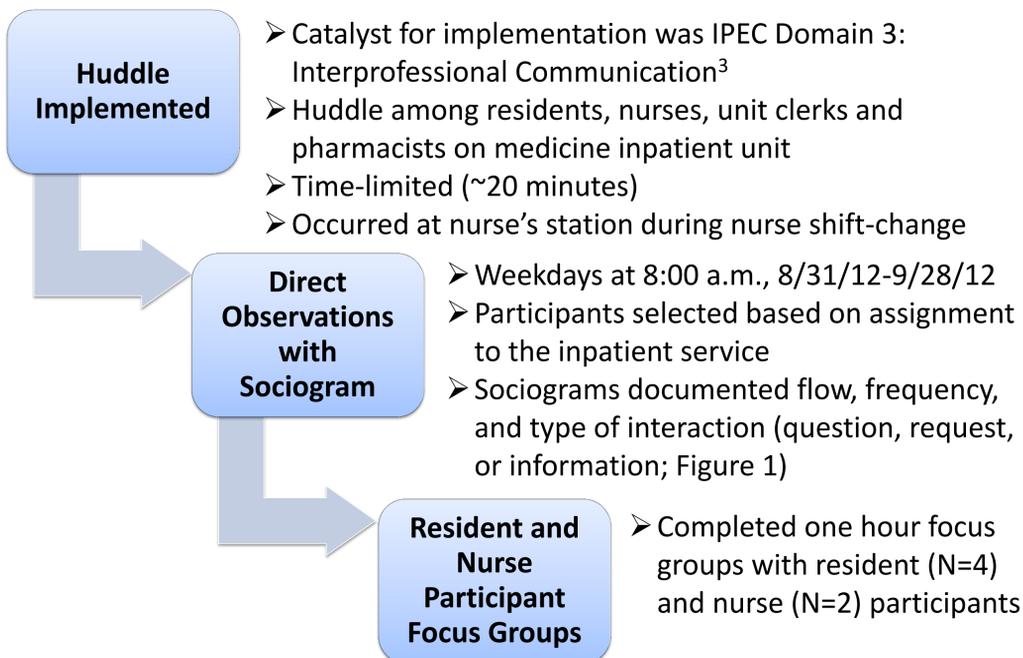


Figure 1: Completed Sociogram. Sociograms diagram the structure and patterns of group interaction, mapping communication lines.⁴ Colored lines represent unique patient reports.

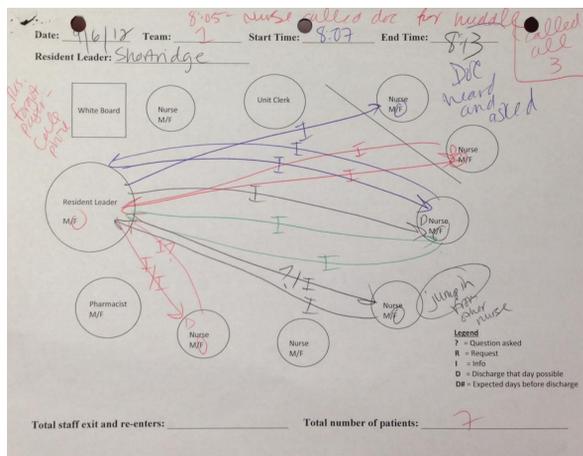


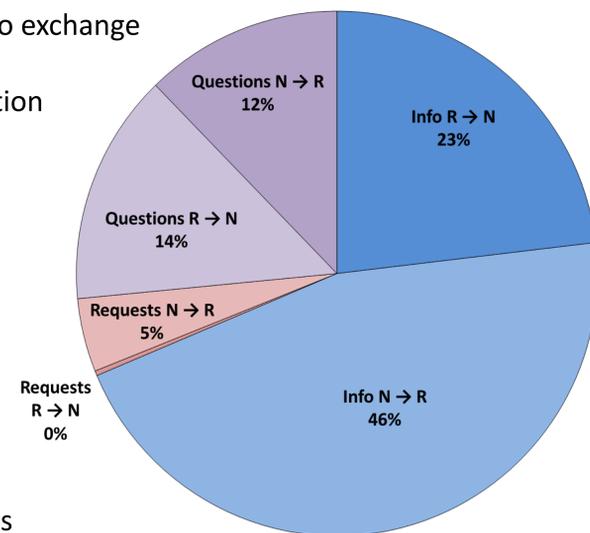
Figure 2: Sociomatrix. This is data from three sociograms completed on the same day.

Analysis by Statement													Volley has more than 6 interactions						
09/04/2012	Initial Start-Interaction 1	Interaction 2	Interaction 3	Interaction 4	Interaction 5	Interaction 6	Interaction 7	Interaction 8	Interaction 9	Interaction 10	Interaction 11	Interaction 12							
	Resident Info to Nurse	Resident Question to Nurse	Resident Request to Nurse	Nurse Info Back to Resident	Nurse Question to Resident	Nurse Request to Resident	Resident Info Back to Nurse	Resident Question to Nurse	Resident Request to Nurse	Nurse Info Back to Resident	Nurse Question to Resident	Nurse Request to Resident							
3 Team 1																			
5 Volley 1	1																		
6 Volley 2		1																	
7 Volley 3			1																
8 Volley 4				1															
9 Volley 5					1														
10 Volley 6						1													
11 Volley 7							1												
12 Volley 8								1											
13 Volley 9									1										
14 Team 2																			
15 Volley 1																			
16 Volley 2																			
17 Volley 3																			
18 Volley 4																			
19 Volley 5																			
20 Volley 6																			
21 Volley 7																			
22 Team 3																			
23 Volley 1																			
24 Volley 2																			
25 Volley 3																			
26 Volley 4																			
27																			
28 Totals:	18	3	0	10	5	0	8	3	1	4	5	1	5	1	0	1	1	2	3

Results

Three team huddles were observed each day for 16 days yielding 48 completed sociograms. Data were compiled on a sociomatrix (Figure 2). When controlled for the required resident initiation, observation data showed:

- 69% of communication was info exchange between resident and nurse
- More than 45% of communication was the passing of info from nurse to resident
- Nurses and residents asked questions of one another approximately equally
- Nurses made more requests of residents than residents made of nurses



We completed thematic analysis of focus group transcripts. Analysis of the resident focus group uncovered six main themes (Figure 4).

Figure 3: Nature of Communication with Initial Interaction Removed.

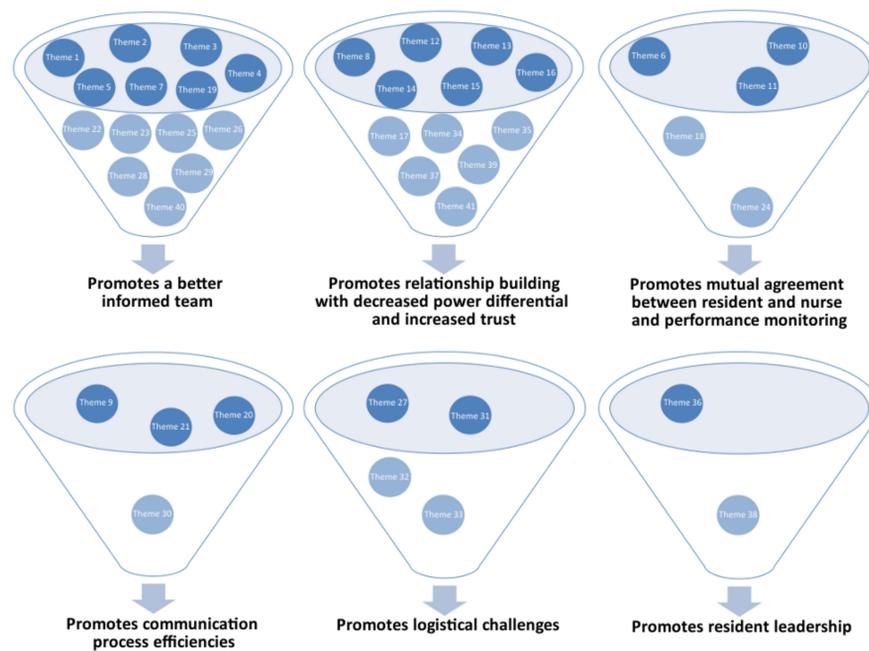


Figure 4: Thematic Analysis of Resident Focus Group Transcript.

Conclusion

Sociogram results combined with thematic analysis of focus group transcripts suggest that the huddle resulted in:

- A better informed team with improved patient care decision-making
- Stronger interprofessional relationships with decreased power differentials and increased trust
- Mutual performance monitoring and agreement regarding patient care plans

These data strongly align with many of the IPEC core competencies (2011) and the five competencies for high performing teams set out by Leasure, Jones, Meade, et al (2013).⁵ Alignment suggests the huddle is an effective strategy for achieving teamwork communication competencies necessary for a high-functioning, interprofessional team.

See handout for references.

