



Jane and Robert Cizik  
School of Nursing

The University of Texas  
Health Science Center at Houston

Mark Riccioni

DNP, APRN, CPNP-AC

Nurse Practitioner

## Interdisciplinary Rounding to Reduce Critical Care Length of Stay

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this project was to equip the healthcare team with information to better coordinate care resulting in a positive impact on LOS as well as patient/family satisfaction.

### BACKGROUND

There was no tool in place in the project setting, a children's hospital step-down unit that provides care for children who no longer require the intensive care unit but are not medically ready to transfer to general inpatient care. Tools are utilized to enhance communication and sharing of patient goals during interdisciplinary care rounds (ICR). There was also a perceived lack of coordination of daily goals among physician and advance practice providers (APP) during ICR and a belief that discharge or transfer out of the unit was delayed for this reason.

### METHODOLOGY

A daily goal sheet was designed in a collaborative effort, with the team

assisting in creating the content of the daily goal sheet. Education sessions regarding the use of the daily goal sheet were provided to the nursing and medical staff prior to implementation.

### RESULTS

Length of stay did not improve within the three-month period. Average medical and physical length of stay prior to implementation of the study was 3.477 and 1.849 days respectively.

Post-implementation average medical and physical length of stay was 3.88 and 2.021 days respectively. Patient/family satisfaction mean scores reflective of perceived personnel performance improved slightly from 89.1 prior to implementation to 89.6 post implementation. Mean satisfaction scores reflective of the perception of being prepared for discharge did improve more

than 2 percentage points from 85.4 to 88 post implementation. The average completion rate of the daily goal sheet was 58%, well below the target of 80%.

### IMPLICATIONS

According to the literature, use of a daily goal sheet during interdisciplinary rounds can be an effective tool in communicating daily patient care goals, and has potential to reduce medical errors. Nurse-led rounds can strengthen the collaboration of the rounding team. This project did not support current recommendations. Competing priority initiatives and use of a paper tool may have been contributing factors. The content of the daily goal sheet should be tailored to each inpatient care unit. To improve sustainability, future work should include building the goal sheet content into the electronic health record.