

Connecting the Dots: Finding What Matters Most to Patients and Families



Kids deserve the best.

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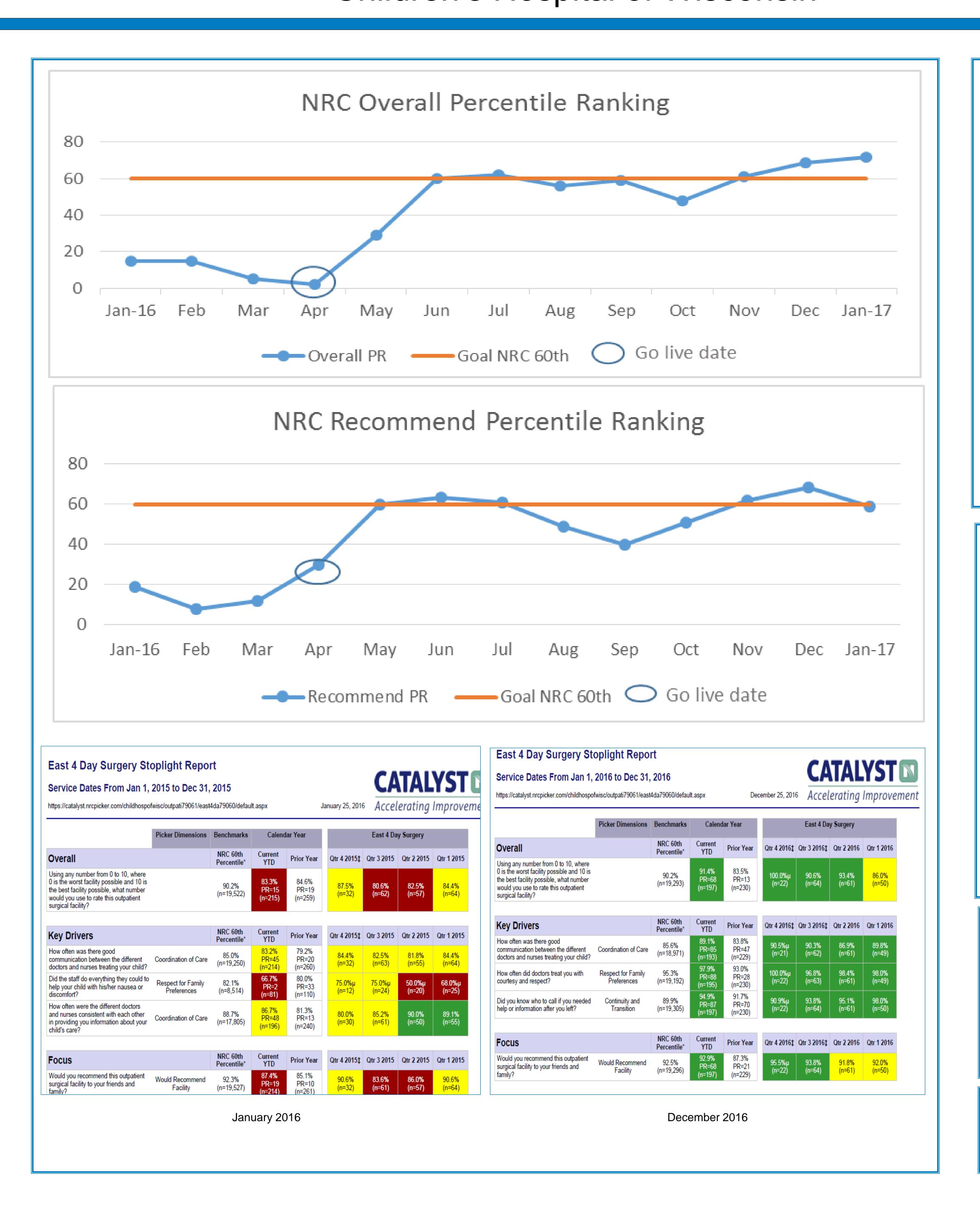
Introduction

- The landscape of healthcare is changing, and customers have choices in their healthcare decisions. Now, more than ever, the patient/family experience has become a top priority in many organizations.
- Despite reports of excellent clinical care, customer experience scores were continuously lower than the perceived level of service.
- Perioperative care can feel fragmented as most outpatients will have a minimum of four nurses during their surgical journey.
- During an initiative to streamline our nursing handoff processes, an addition was made to ask the patients and families in the pre-operative phase of care "What matters most to you today?"
- This is in alignment with recent Institute of Healthcare Improvement initiatives.

Aim

- Focus on What Matters Most to our patients and families.
- Make a personal connection with our patients and families during a hectic, stressful time.
- Demonstrate consistency in communication during handoffs throughout our four phases of care.
- Improve our patient and family experience scores.





Method

- This nurse-driven initiative was included with the implementation of a revised handoff tool in the electronic health record.
- Utilizing the Shared Governance model, members from the three surgical areas met to determine the most meaningful information to be included in a perioperative handoff.
- Education occurred during unit staff meetings and leadership rounding,
- Nurses in the pre-operative phase ask the question and document the response in the treatment team sticky note, a part of the handoff tool in the electronic health record.
- The response is addressed in each phase of care during handoff, as well as reviewed once the patient and family have been reunited.

Conclusion

- Recognizing what matters most to our patients and their families throughout the surgical care continuum has improved the overall patient experience rating, as well as the percentage of families who would recommend our facility to others.
- Staff have found value in the responses, providers have had positive comments about the process, and families have expressed appreciation of the question during post-operative follow-up phone calls.

Next Steps

- Implementation of this initiative across hospital inpatient units as well as a remote ambulatory surgery center.
- Ongoing audits to monitor compliance and sustainability.

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