



# Debunking the Myths of PACU Nursing Documentation

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## Background

A review of the department's documentation compliance data showed inconsistent practices in particular categories such as:

- Assessment
- Vital Signs
- Medication Administration
- Nursing Care Plan

The department identified the need to provide education on documentation accuracy, while regularly monitoring and evaluating documentation compliance. A decision was made to formulate a committee to standardize the auditing process, in order to sustain the compliance benchmark.

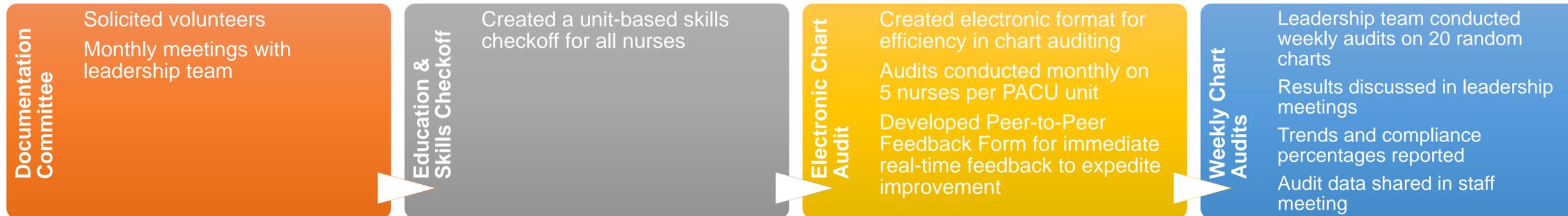
## Objective

The goal of this project was to improve overall PACU documentation compliance by June 2021.

The focus was to increase documentation compliance by 10% in the identified categories.

The overall aim was to achieve documentation compliance of 90% in all PACU areas and have long-term sustainability.

## Implementation

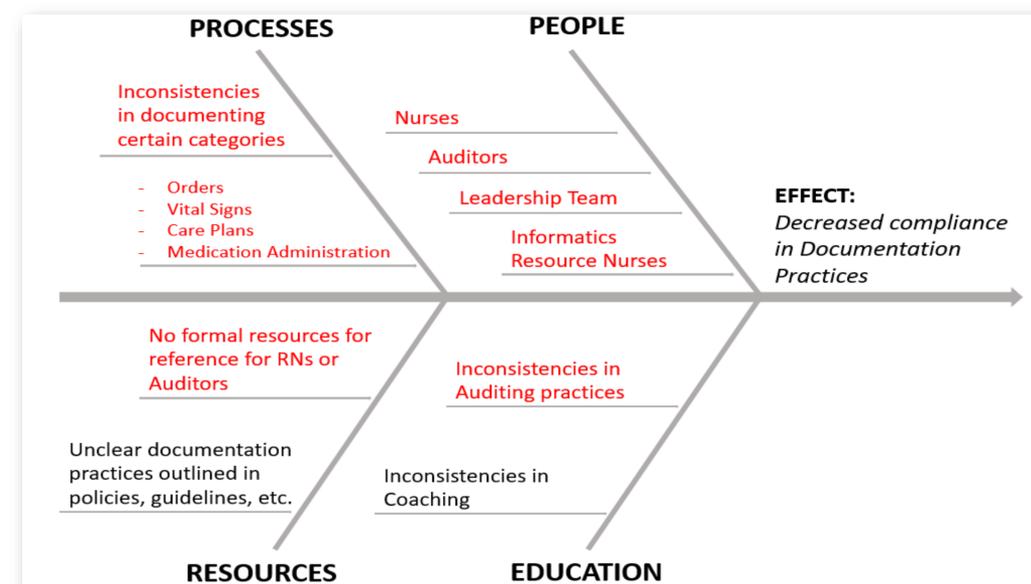


## Quality Tools

The fishbone diagram was used to identify potential sources of noncompliance in documentation.

The data was obtained from staff feedback, observation & chart auditing.

The cause-and-effect diagram helped us focus on reversible causes and formulate interventions necessary for improvement.

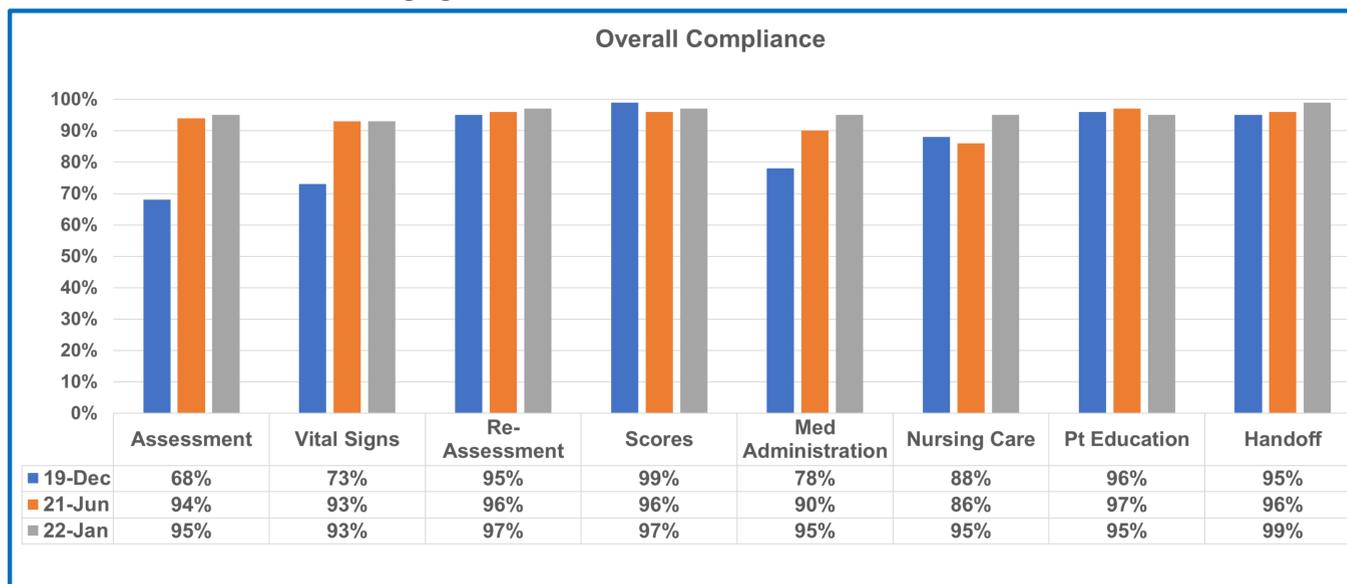


## Results

The identified categories of deficient documentation have improved by more than 10%. Over a period of over 25 months, documentation compliance in the focused areas increased by > 10% compliance in those categories.

Education and skill check off for standardized documentation practices improved efficiency.

Review of the audit tool, creation of guidelines for auditing and monthly meetings also enhanced the auditors' engagement and satisfaction.



## Implications for Perianesthesia Nursing

Streamlining documentation expectations can improve documentation practices and sustain compliance. Some best practices include:

- ❑ Training new nurses during orientation with auditors to show documentation expectations.
- ❑ Develop a checklist for Nurses to ensure complete documentation and use as a resource at bedside.
- ❑ Reward best practice by recognizing 100% compliance in monthly audits.

## Acknowledgements

Jingle Alcazaren; Marissa Aquino Gado; Lady June Avergonzado Boholst; Dwayne E Brown; Gifty Cherian; Araceli Flores; Jaya Jacob; Anita Jogee; Anna Mae T Josue; Santi J Koprarn; Sherly Koshy; Lara Grace Estrada Lao; Miguel Laxa; Kristen J Marukot Vito; Florine Mendonsa; Marjorie Chiu Mira; Marie Antoinette Lavina Pacis-De Dios; Sasha M Ramirez; Llana Saquiton; Maria Sharon Sarmiento; Manju R Sebastian; Aimee Siharath; Justine P Thomas; Chelse G Woods; Farilyn Zimmer