

The Innovative Role of an RN Regional Block Coordinator: Getting Patients There on Time

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Background

- Regional nerve blocks prior to orthopedic surgery leads to significantly lower pain scores and narcotic use.
- A lack of preop communication and collaboration concerning nerve blocks results in surgical delays.
- The implementation of a block nurse team increases patient safety, efficiency, and productivity while decreasing OR delays.

Objectives

- Identify & eliminate barriers to on-time starts
- Improve communication & collaboration between nursing & anesthesia
- Enhance patient safety and satisfaction

Time	OR	ARRIVAL	SURG. BLOCK	ANESTH	IRN	ROOM	Notes
7:45	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
8:15	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
8:45	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
9:15	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
9:45	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
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12:15	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
12:45	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
1:15	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
1:45	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
2:15	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
2:45	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
3:15	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
3:45	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
4:15	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
4:45	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
5:15	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
5:45	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
6:15	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
6:45	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
7:15	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	
7:45	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	1160	

Daily Regional Block Schedule

Methods

With an understanding that improved coordination and communication leads to better healthcare outcomes, an RN regional block coordinator role was developed. The regional block coordinators maintained a visual management board to track the block schedule, delays, and reasons for late starts. They worked closely with nursing and physician leaders to identify opportunities for enhanced care and to rapidly design and implement strategies for improvement.

Outcomes

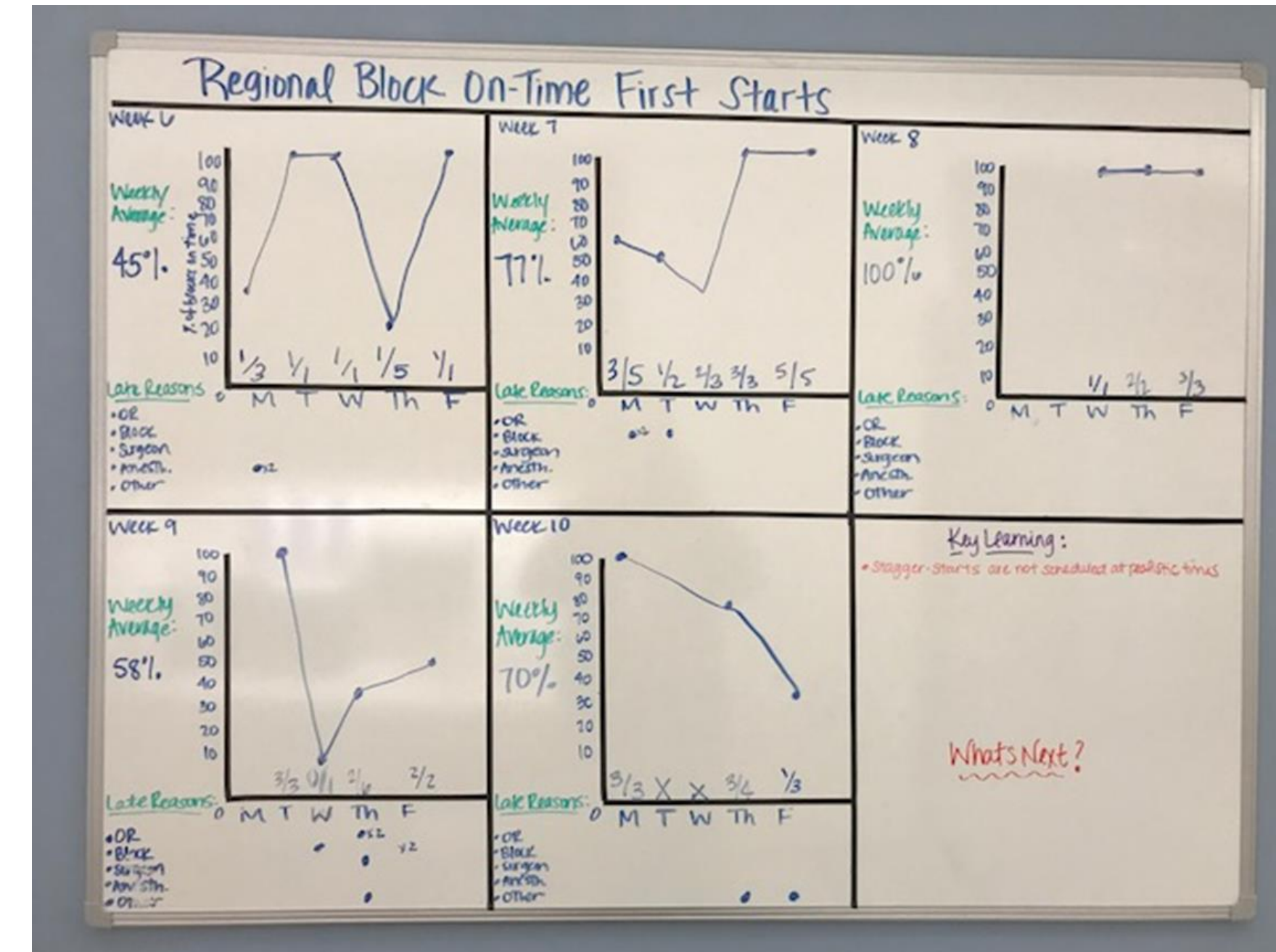
In May 2017, at the start of data collection, patients who received nerve blocks in the preoperative unit experienced an average First Case On Time Start (FCOTS) rate of 36%. In December 2018, the FCOTS rate for the same population increased to 95%, which represented a 59% improvement.

Conclusions

This performance improvement project demonstrated the positive impact that the addition of a dedicated block coordinator makes to the organization, patient experience, and patient outcomes.

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Acknowledgements: Rebecca Gilbert & Mary Tyree, University of Virginia Health System



Regional Block First Case On Time Starts Visual Management Board

Regional Block First Case On Time Starts

