



# “That’s Not Sand in Your Eye!”: Standardizing Management of Corneal Abrasions in the Perioperative Setting

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## Background

Corneal abrasions are a potential complication that can occur following general anesthesia. Knowledge deficits and inconsistencies among staff were identified when caring for patients who develop corneal abrasions. Therefore, a committee was formed to improve current practice. In collaboration with anesthesiologists, an education-based approach process was created to standardize escalation of care and documentation to improve patient outcomes.

## Objectives

- Standardize the management of care with patients who developed corneal abrasions
- Enhance nursing documentation related to assessment and provider notification
- Increase awareness of the Corneal Abrasion Algorithm, escalation of care process, patient education, and new order sets
- Improve patient outcomes through staff and patient education.

## Implementation Process

An online pre-education survey was distributed to perioperative nursing staff. The results revealed that 66% consulted a provider and 33% were not sure.

In addition, only 34.6% nurses agreed to provide written instructions, 41.8% did not agree and 23.6% never provided discharge instructions.

Furthermore, 55.8% highly recommend a treatment plan and 44.2% think otherwise. 50.9% believe that a flowchart could standardize care.

The survey results indicated a knowledge deficit in the management of corneal abrasions.

A team of nurses reviewed the current practice and developed an action plan. Staff education related to post-operative corneal abrasions was created to improve management via escalation of care, reduce knowledge deficits, and assure compliance and documentation of new guidelines.

## Results

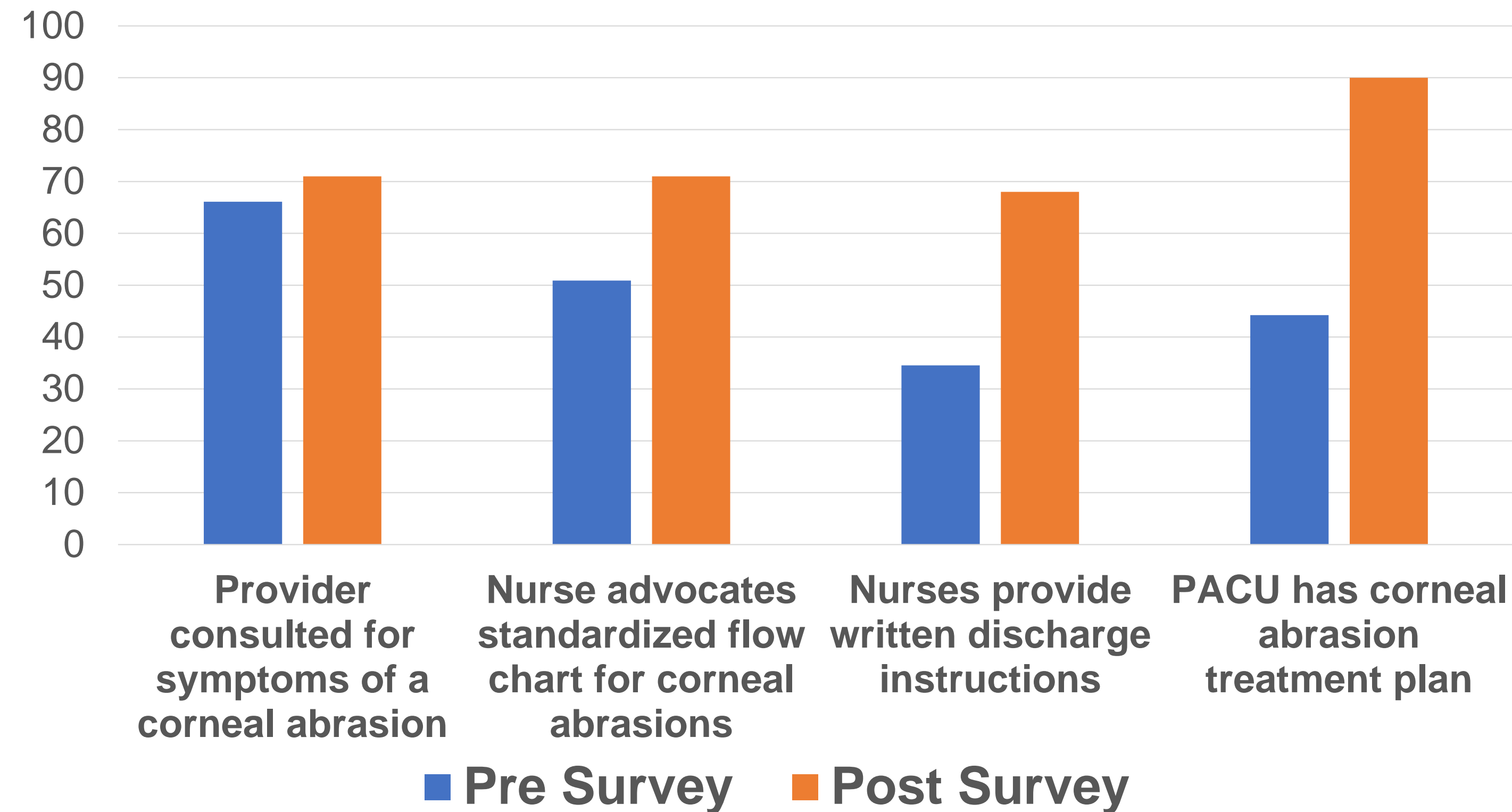


Figure 1. Results Data

## Results

Creation of an escalation flowchart, a new order set, and patient discharge instructions were established to standardize the management of corneal abrasions.

A focused chart audit was conducted, and safety reporting was encouraged in all areas. Post-education survey showed an increase of nurses consulting a provider at 71%. Also 68% of nurses provided discharge instructions as opposed to 34.6% pre-education.

More nurses agreed that an escalation flowchart can standardize care at 71% and 90% respondents believe a treatment plan is highly recommended in the perioperative setting.

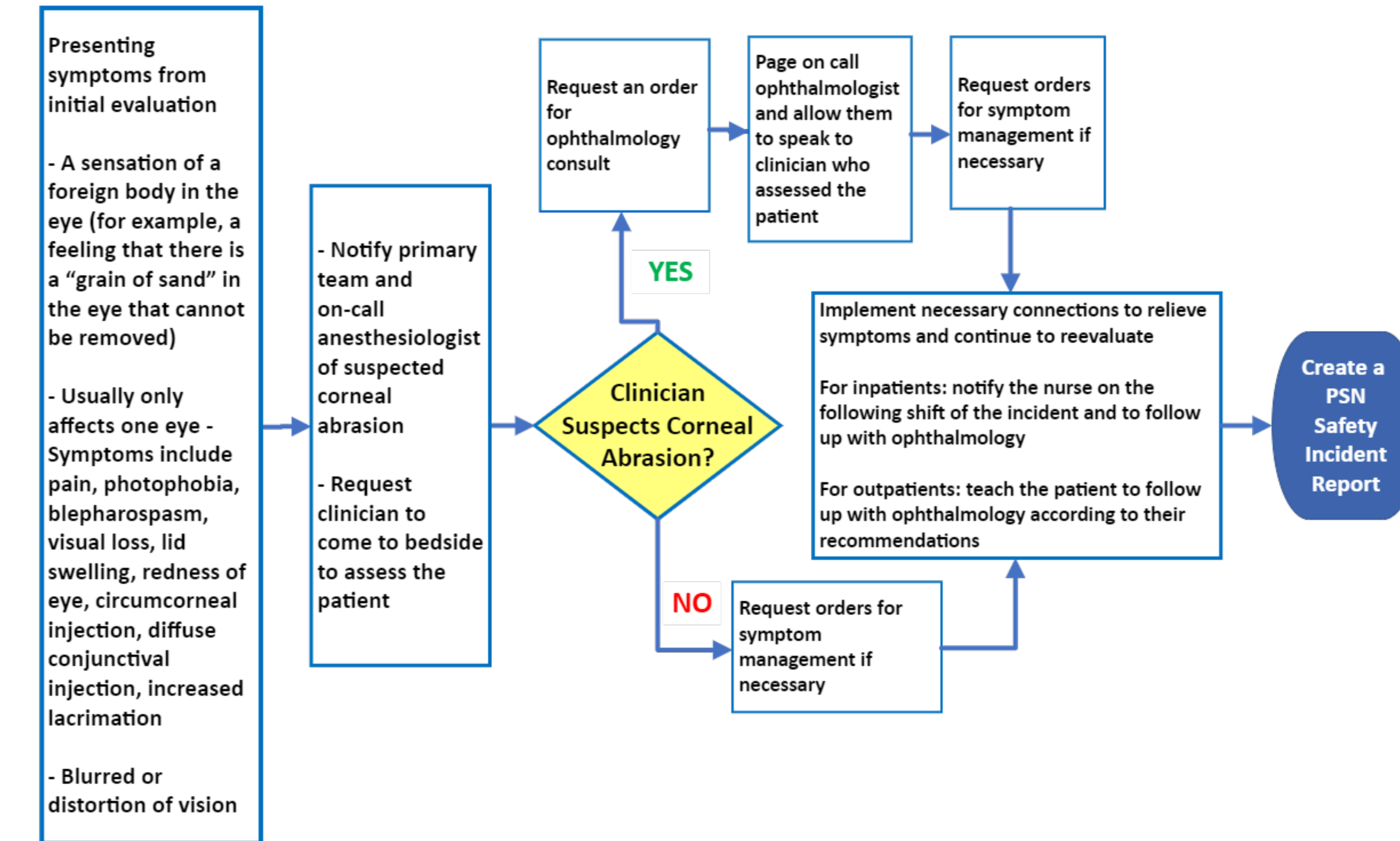


Figure 2. Corneal Abrasion Escalation Flowchart

## Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing

Application of the updated standardized process can assist the perianesthesia team to provide safe and efficient care while taking care of patients with corneal abrasions.

Multidisciplinary staff agrees that the streamlined process will continue to keep the patient’s safety as the focal point of the care.

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