

O2 Guru: Improving Perianesthesia Nursing Practice: A Standing Delegation Order Protocol for Oxygen Therapy

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Background/Introduction

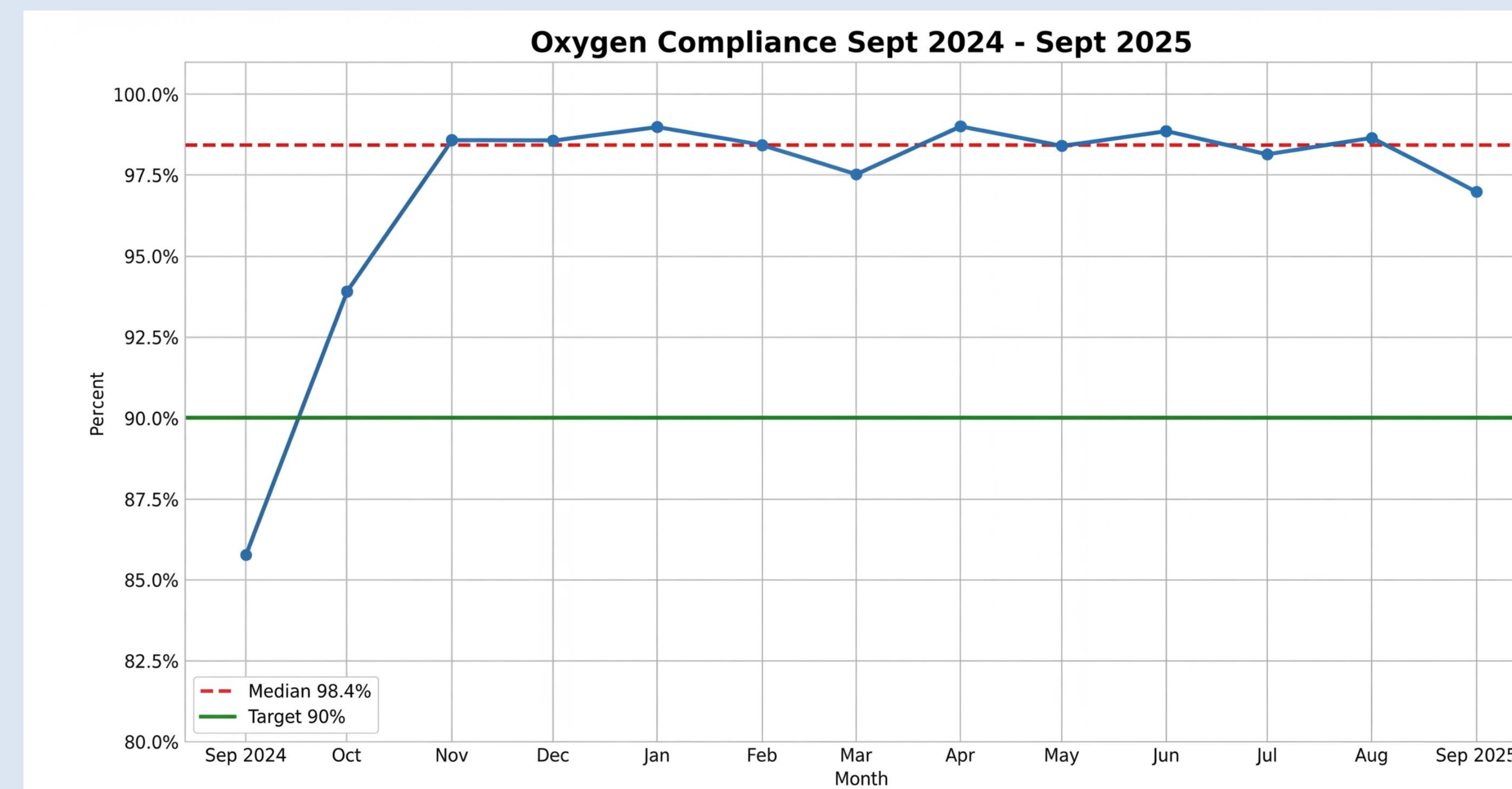
- ❖ A review of electronic medical records (EMR) performed by the hospital's accreditation organization revealed that licensed nurses were administering oxygen without a physician order.
- ❖ Providers were not consistently entering existing oxygen order sets, which created a documentation and compliance issue.
- ❖ As part of a quality improvement (QI) initiative, a new standing delegation order (SDO) protocol was approved.
- ❖ The SDO is a pre-approved order set allowing qualified nurses to initiate and manage oxygen therapy without a separate physician order.
- ❖ A system-wide practice alert was issued to clinical licensed nursing staff via email to attest understanding.

Purpose/Objectives/Hypothesis

- ❖ The QI initiative aimed to enhance compliance with the new SDO protocol in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU).
- ❖ This QI sought to answer the clinical question: Does the implementation of a SDO increase oxygen therapy compliance among PACU nurses?
- ❖ The goal was to increase compliance from a baseline of 85.79% to at least 90% and sustain this practice for three consecutive months.
- ❖ Compliance was monitored through weekly EMR reviews.

Methods

- ❖ A PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act) framework was employed to implement the SDO protocol.
- ❖ 35 PACU licensed staff nurses were provided with comprehensive education.
- ❖ Education included a 1:1 review of the SDO practice alert, an online module and attestation form.
- ❖ Nursing services audited approximately 168 EMRs weekly over a 12-week period to monitor compliance.
- ❖ Staff who fell below the 90% benchmark received personalized notifications and additional education.
- ❖ A recognition program named, "O2 Guru," was launched. Staff with 100% monthly compliance were recognized on the huddle board and entered into a drawing for 1,000 Harris Health reward points.



Result

- ❖ The interventions resulted in a significant and sustained improvement in compliance, increasing from 85.79% to 98.58% within two months.
- ❖ This 12.79% increase was maintained above 95% for over six consecutive months, demonstrating sustainability and allowing for reduction in compliance notifications from weekly to monthly.

Conclusions

- ❖ The "O2 Guru" initiative provided a successful model for advancing perianesthesia nursing practice by showcasing how a targeted SDO, coupled with continuous auditing, and positive reinforcement can effectively embed a new protocol.
- ❖ This approach ensures regulatory compliance and patient safety by empowering licensed nurses to manage oxygen therapy within the SDO protocol.

Future Actions

- ❖ Oxygen compliance reports are generated weekly and monthly.
- ❖ Auditing will continue to ensure sustained compliance.
- ❖ The findings provide a model for other healthcare organizations seeking to improve patient outcomes and advance their zero-harm mission.



Acknowledgments

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