

Operationalizing a Nursing Student-Led Accreditation Audit Program



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Lessons Learned

Tracers can be an onerous task involving education provided for knowledge gaps. Use of a student-led audit process is a resourceful way for organizations to obtain insights to prepare for the accreditation process.

Description

Accreditation is a third party vendor quality assurance program that examines an organization’s compliance with required organizational practices (ROPs) and standards. There are 32 ROPs, and 2,698 standards that HRH must demonstrate compliance of. One major process to ensure compliance and report back opportunities for improvement is through an audit program, which is traditionally run by organizational leaders. To optimize resources, 3rd year nursing students led an accreditation audit program by conducting tracers throughout HRH. Tracers consisted of practice questions related to various ROPs to ensure that all organizational members were compliant to best practice in accordance to the ROPs.

Actions Taken

- Nursing students first learned about accreditation processes and reviewed HRH’s ROP Tracers.
- Additional information was provided to ensure that tracer answers were complete and aligned with HRH’s policies and procedures.
- Students conducted surveys throughout HRH by asking tracer questions and documenting responses.
- Data was inputted and analyzed to determine organizational compliance.

Summary of Results

The 3rd year nursing students have been successful in completing more than 800 tracers within a one-month period. Of the completed tracers, responses for the two patient identifier tracer accounted for 75% of the total. Tracer data will be shared with leadership teams to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement. In preparation for Accreditation, auditing with tracers is an ongoing process to accurately obtain insights on organizational compliance.



Figure 1. 3rd Year Nursing Students preparing tracer documents and small prizes for correct ROP responses from staff.

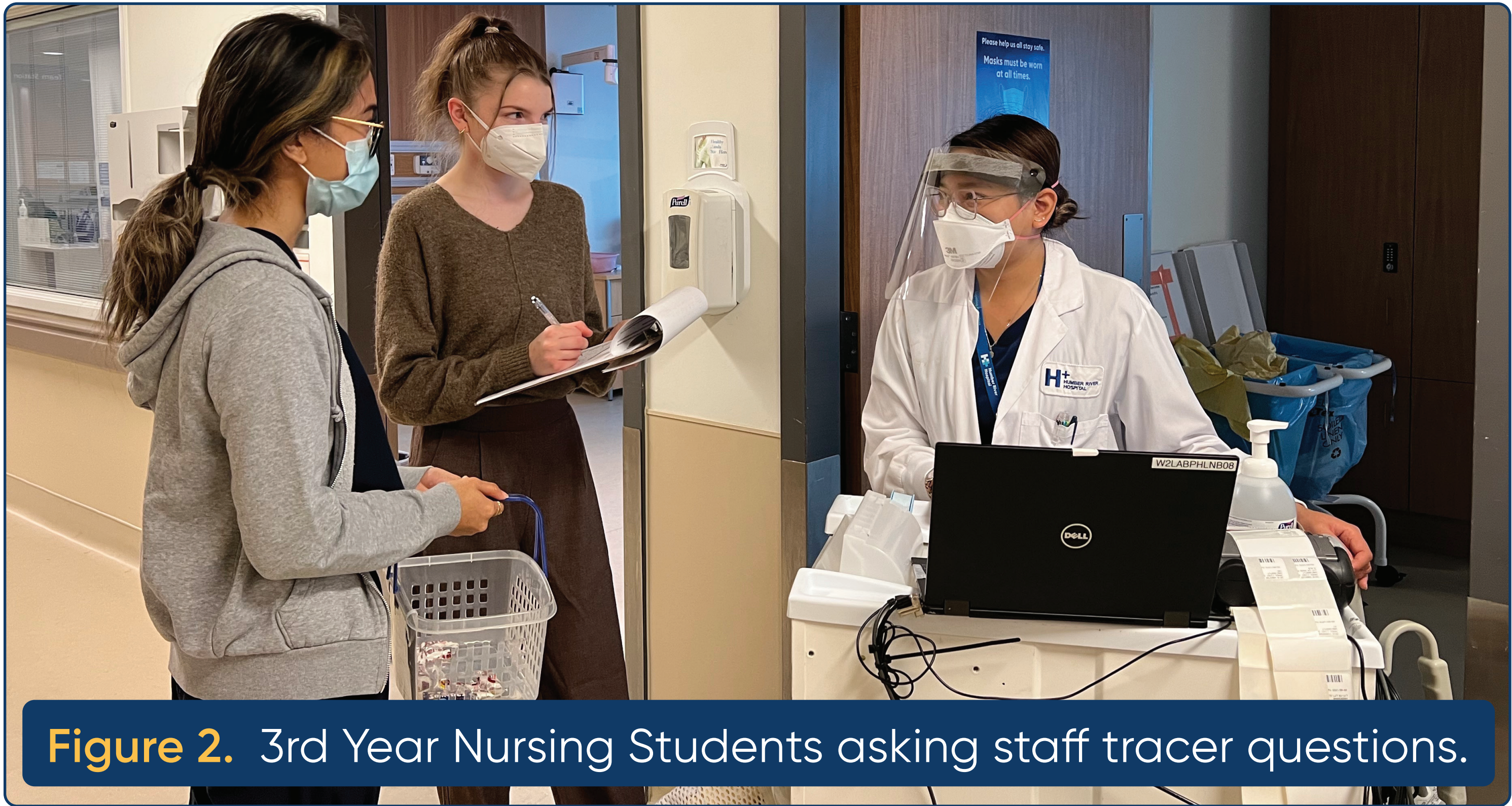


Figure 2. 3rd Year Nursing Students asking staff tracer questions.

Completed Tracers

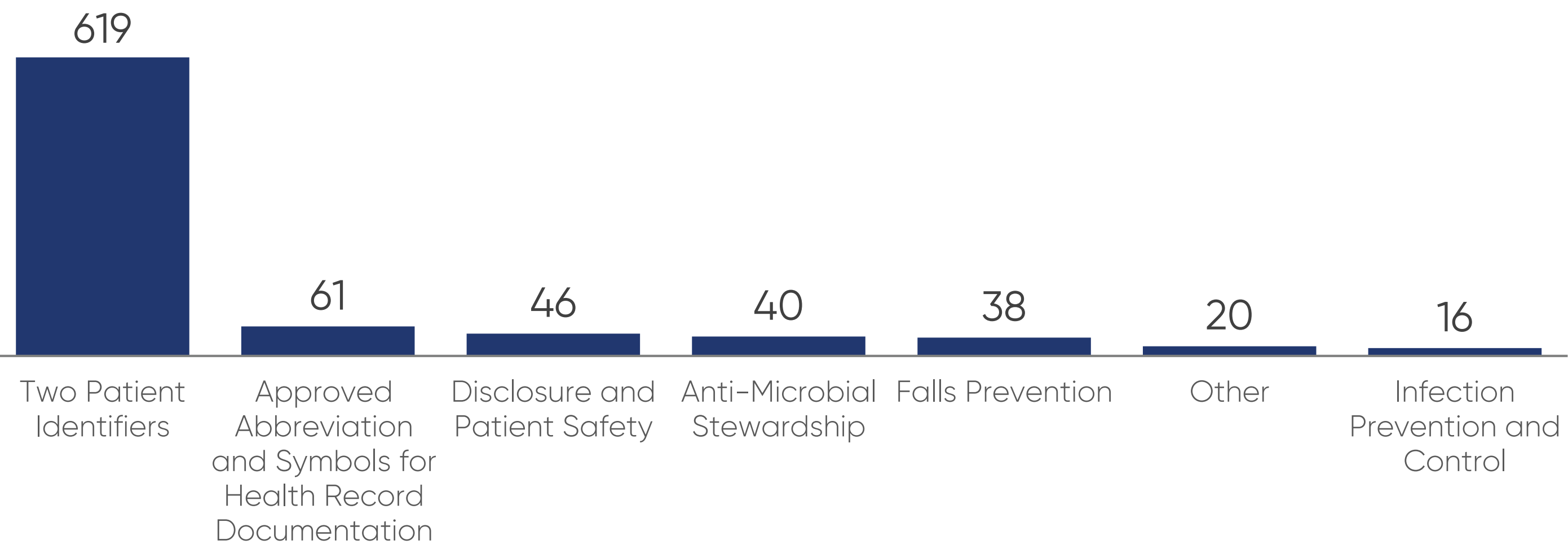
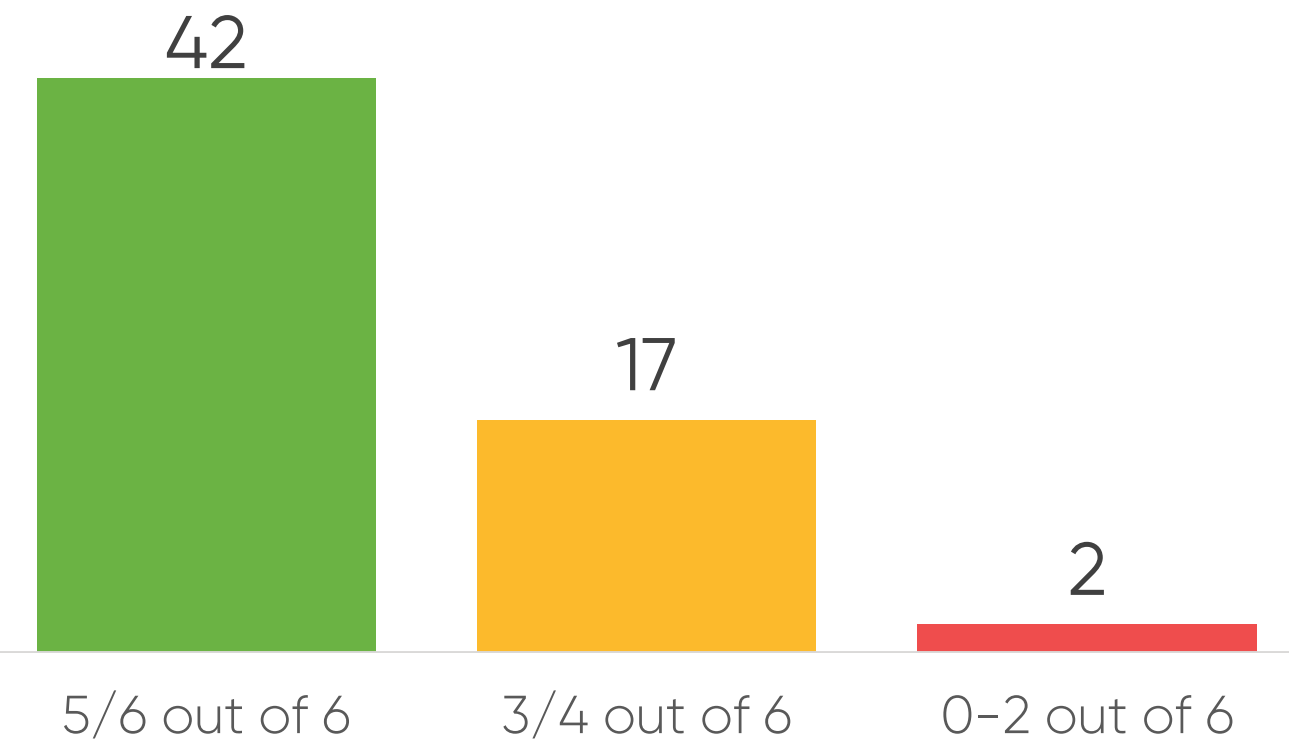
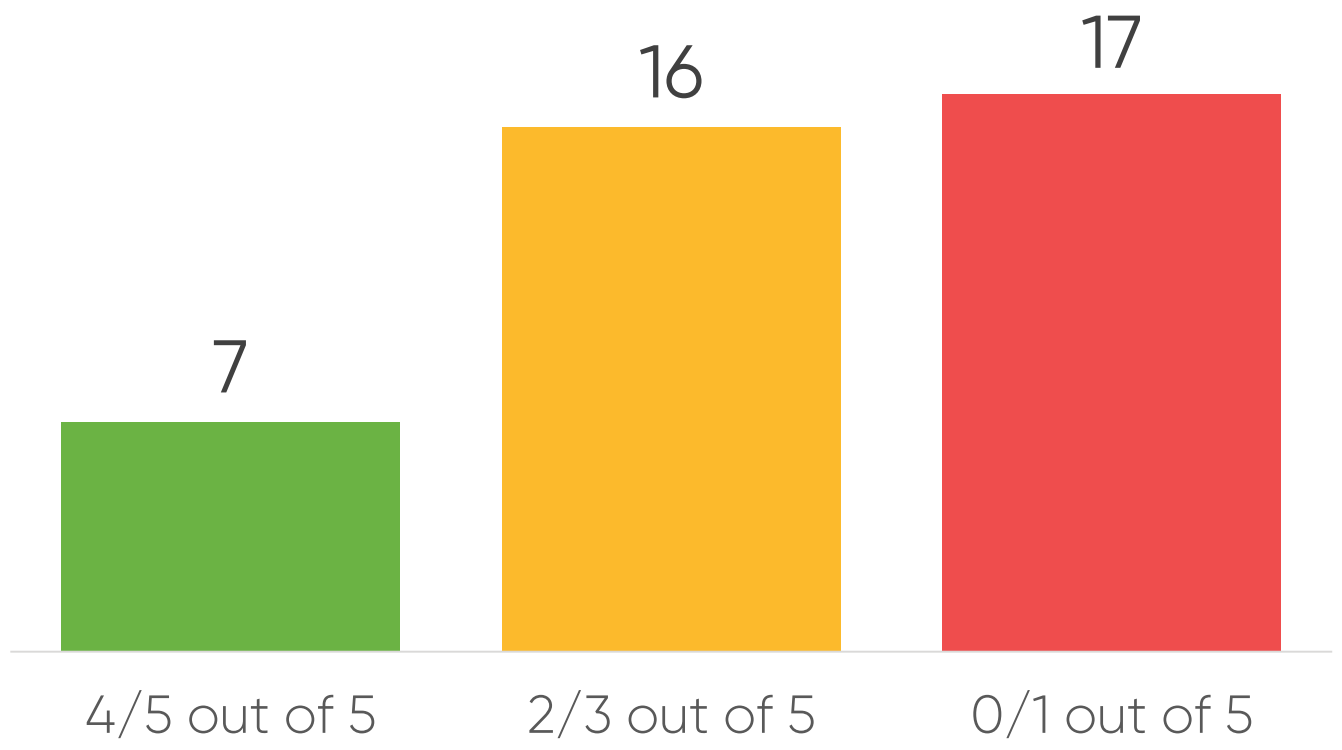


Figure 3. Number of completed tracers by the 3rd year nursing students, which had 612 total. With the two patient identifiers being the largest percent done.

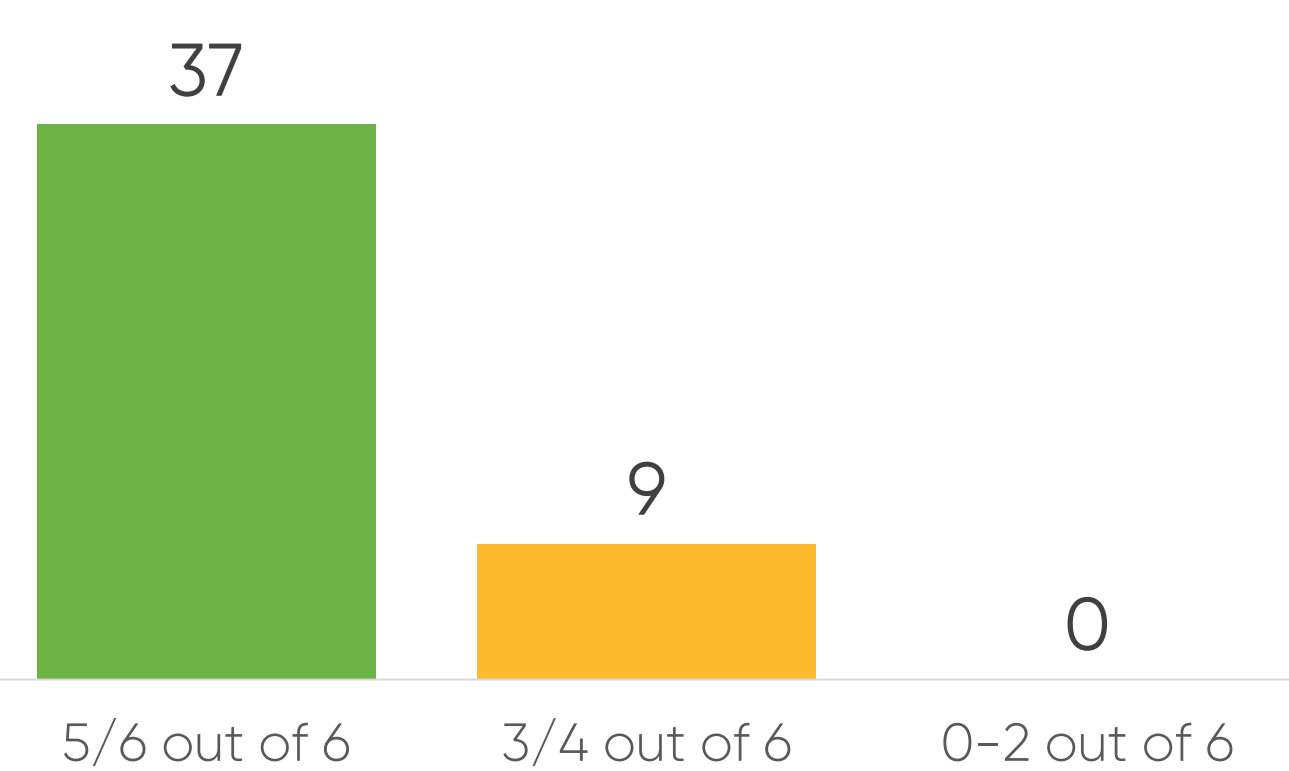
Approved Abbreviation and Symbols for Health Record Documentation



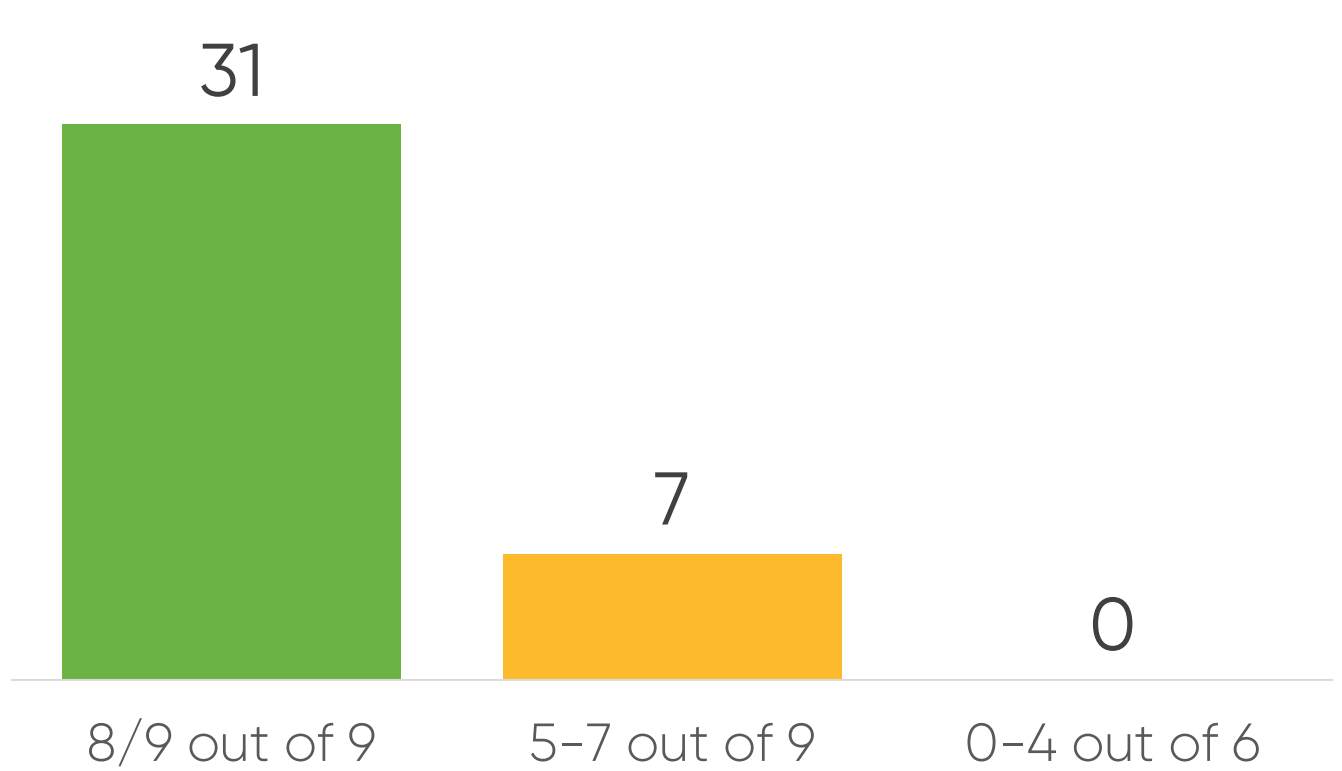
Anti-Microbial Stewardship



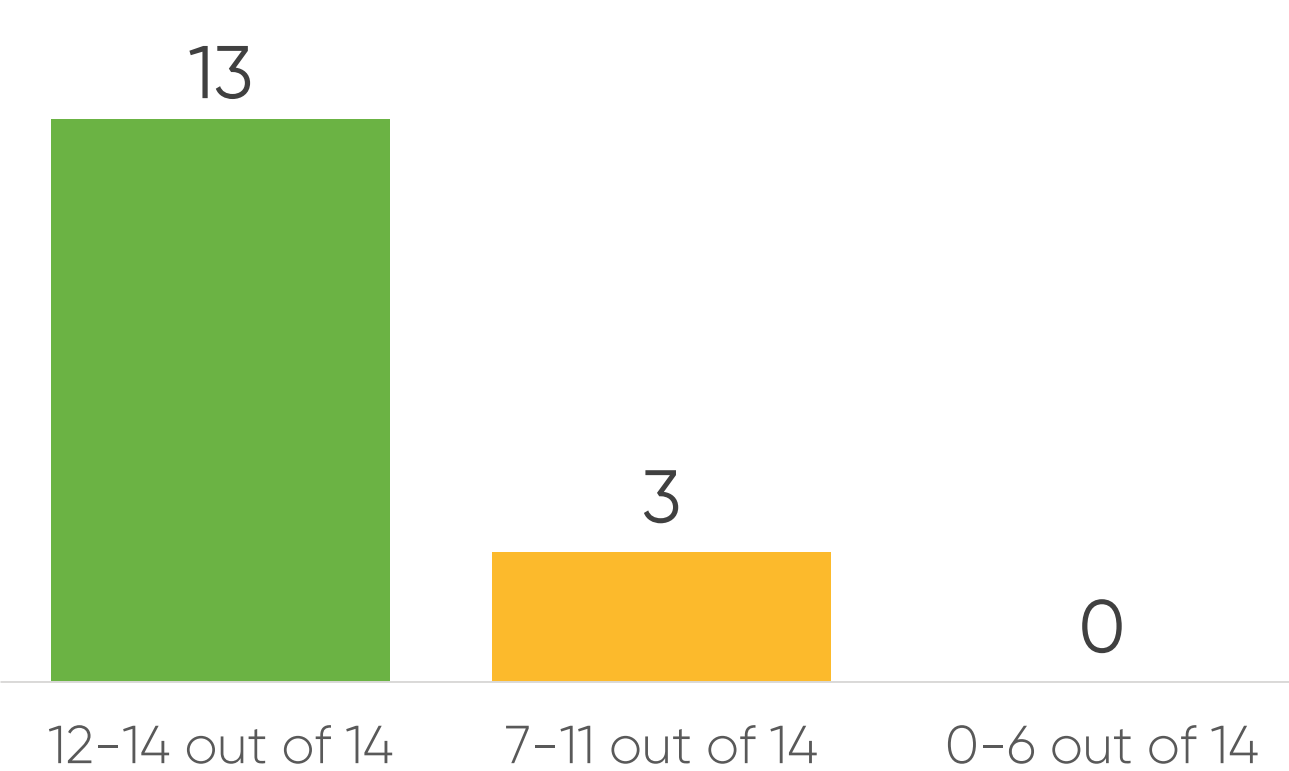
Disclosure and Patient Safety



Falls Prevention



Infection Prevention and Control



Two Patient Identifiers

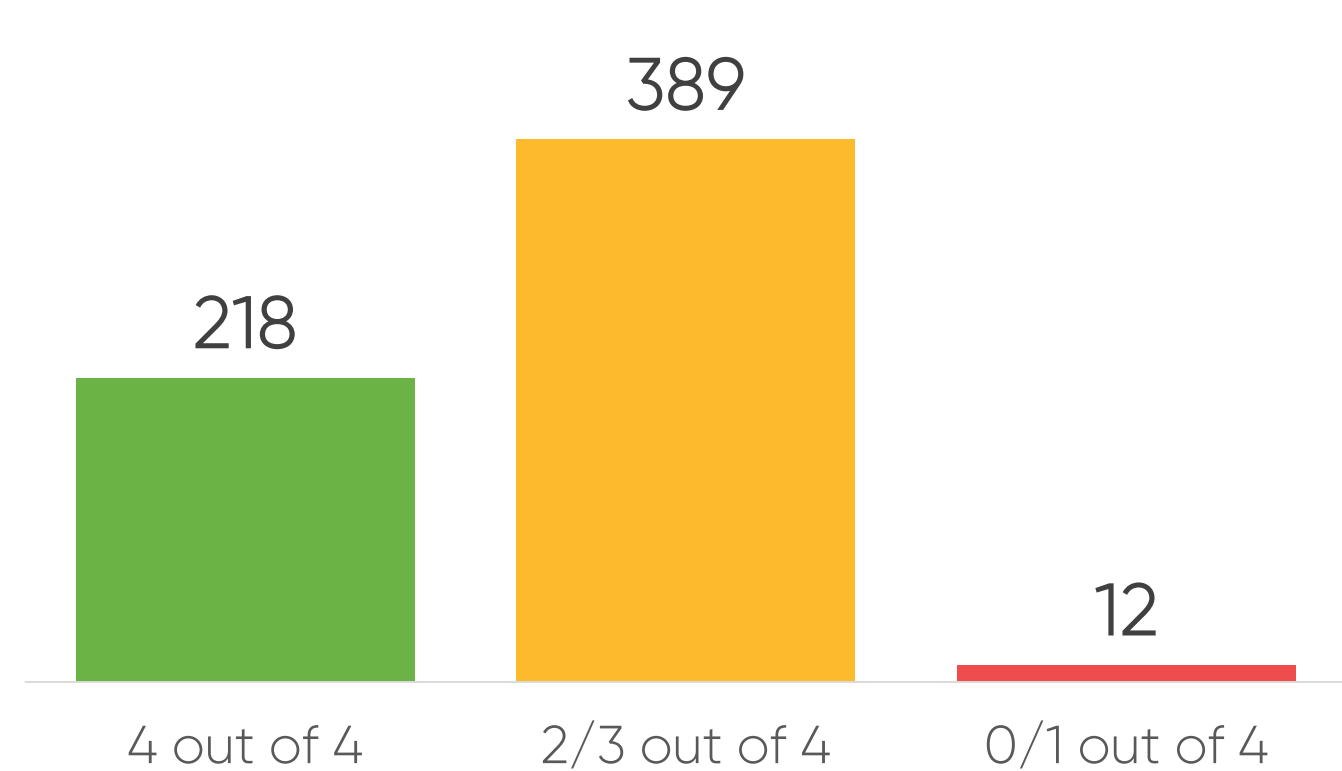


Figure 4. Data from completed tracers on various ROPs. The colours breakdown the score: green is 80% or more, yellow is 50 – 79%, and red is less than 50%.