

LEVERAGING THE DAILY SAFETY HUDDLES TO PROMOTE SAFE CLINICAL PRACTICE

Janice Yu, RN, BScN, MN, CHE; Retu Sapple, RN, BN, MScN; Chantelle Moffatt, RN, BScN; James No, RN, BScN; Paula Podolski, BSc, MSW, RSW

DESCRIPTION

Patient Quality and Safety Huddles (PQSH) at Humber River Health (HRH) help increase staff awareness of patient safety concerns, identify risks to patient and team safety, reduce the risk and likelihood of safety incidents, and improve the quality of patient care. Daily huddles are led by a nurse or unit leader on every shift. By optimizing the existing workflow for the huddles, a medicine unit facilitated real-time knowledge sharing through targeted education and consistent reinforcement of key safety messages. This approach enabled the seamless integration of best practices into daily routines, enhancing safety awareness without workflow disruptions.

OBJECTIVE

To leverage existing PQSH as a sustainable platform for focused education and consistent safety messages to strengthen patient safety practices.

ACTIONS TAKEN

Incident reviews were conducted to identify trends and opportunities for improvement requiring targeted education and reinforcement. To address these areas, a standardized, easy-to-follow document was developed for nurses/unit leaders to deliver consistent safety messaging across teams and shifts. The document is updated weekly to reflect emerging safety risks, the document supports real-time education. Topics discussed during each shift are shared among unit leaders through the existing team leader report, enabling tracking and analysis of discussion themes. Data on topic coverage is monitored to ensure compliance, informs continuous improvement efforts, and close knowledge gaps.

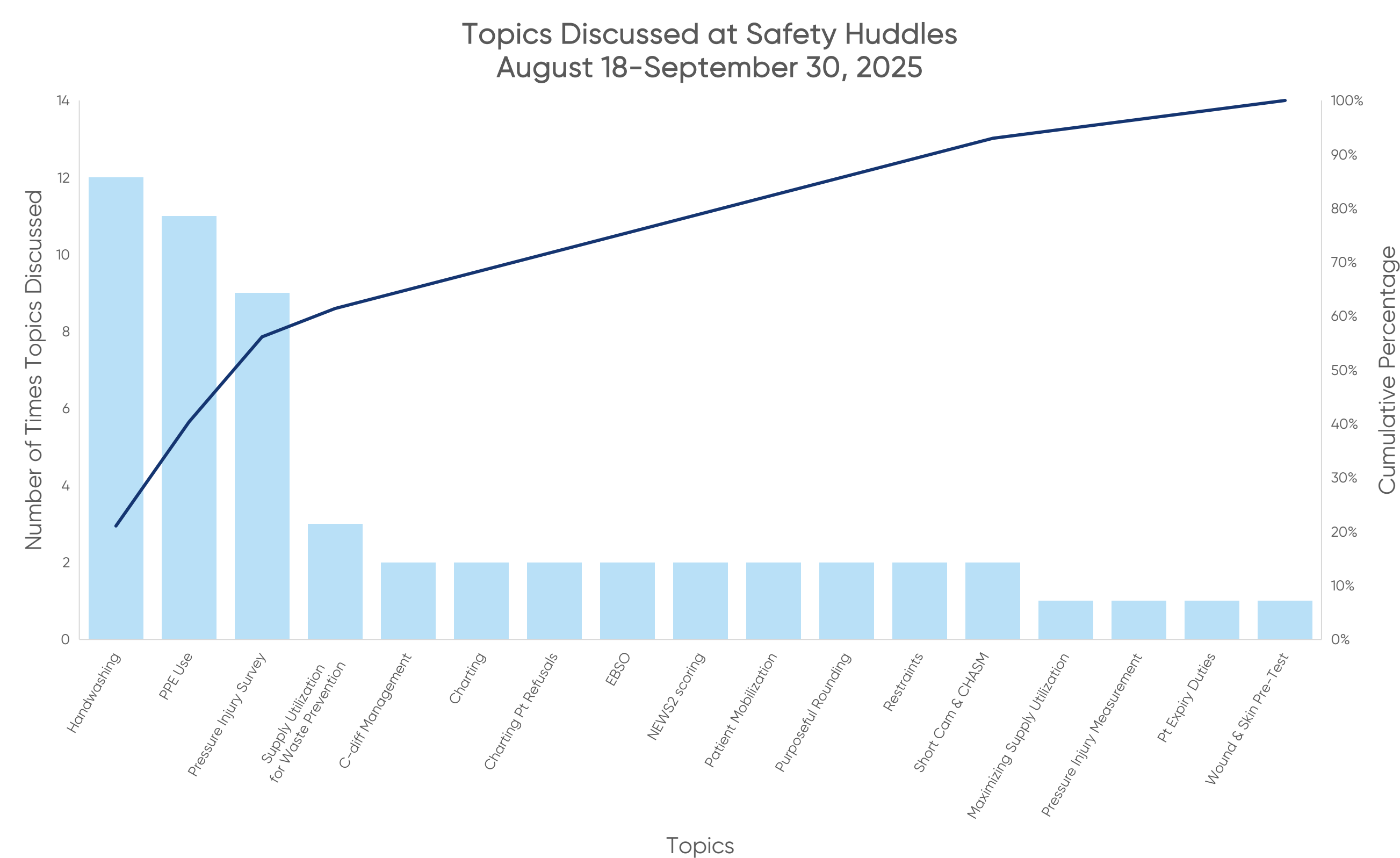


Figure 1. Frequency of the topics discussed at RP/TL led safety huddles between August 18-September 30, 2025.



Figure 2. Word cloud of topics covered during RP/TL led safety huddles, ensuring patient safety gaps are addressed.

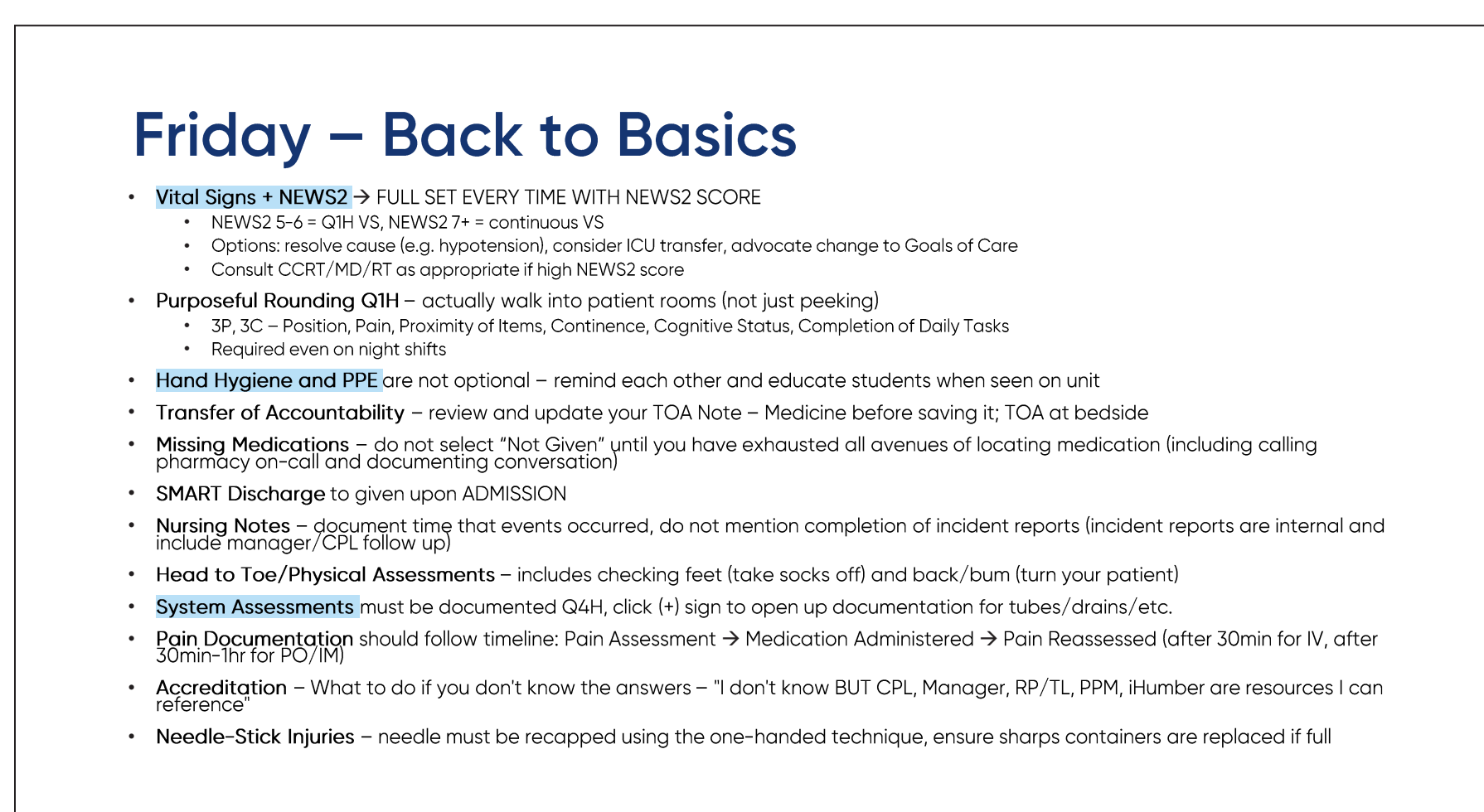


Figure 3. Example of one slide deck of the RP/TL safety huddle strategy to ensure consistent messaging during the safety huddles.

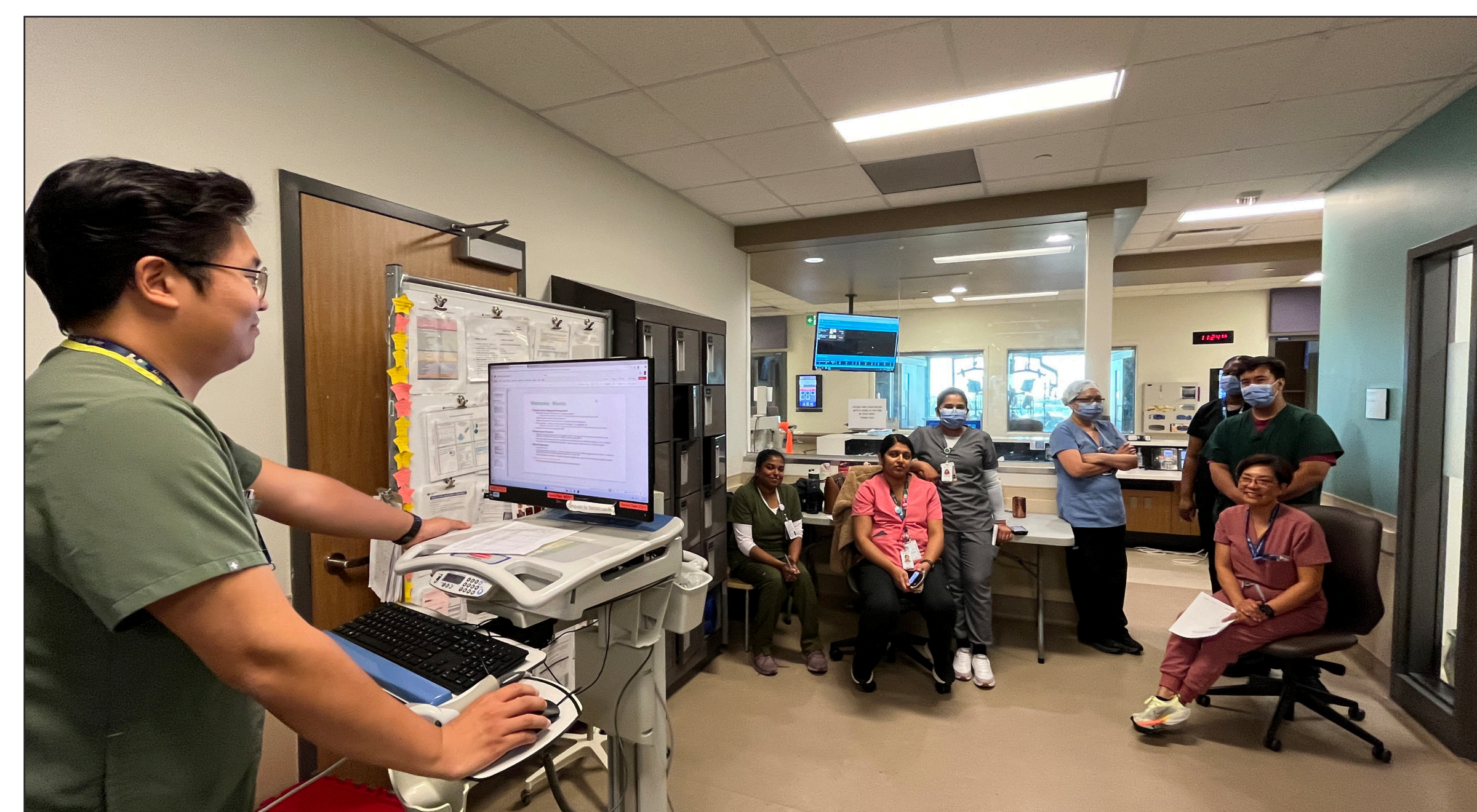


Figure 4. Photo of a safety huddle led by an RP/TL on October 8th, 2025.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Between August 18 and September 30, 2025, safety huddles frequently addressed topics such as hand hygiene, Personal protective equipment (PPE) use, and pressure injury prevention. Nurses reported that the standardized document was easy to follow and did not disrupt workflows. Future efforts will focus on improving compliance and assessing the impact on patient safety using incident and adverse event data.

LESSONS LEARNED

Integrating education into daily safety huddles allows teams across shifts to efficiently share knowledge and reinforce safe practices without adding to staff workload.

