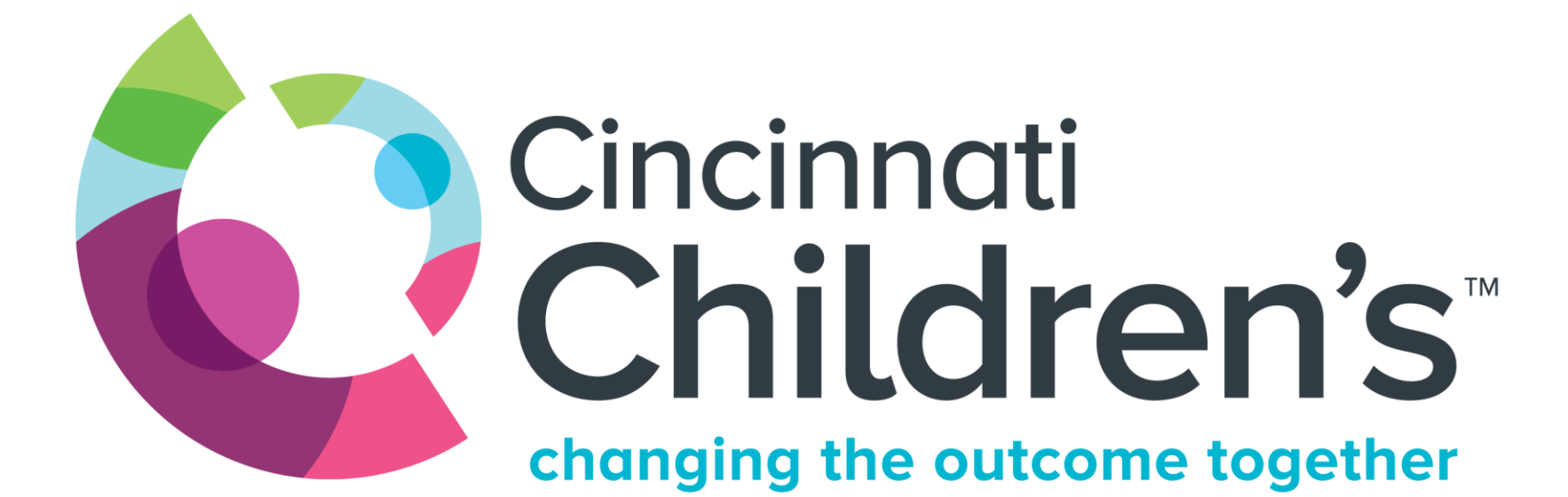


Navigating with Care: Enhancing Patient Safety Through a Dedicated Radiology Transport Nurse Team

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INTRODUCTION

Problem: Historically, bedside nurses handled transporting patients who needed nurse monitoring, to tests and procedures, often leaving the care and monitoring of their other patients to other unit staff. This created strain on unit staff, inconsistent monitoring of patients, and safety concerns for high-acuity patients.

Solution: Development of a Radiology Transport Nurse team by the float department to manage intra-hospital transports safety.

Growth Challenges: Years after initial implementation, hospital growth and increased acuity resulted in increased demand for use of the Radiology Transport Nurse. This created a need to consider adjusting the team's staffing model.

RECOGNIZING & ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

Initial Staffing Model

Starting with one transport nurse per shift highlighted capacity limits and unmet transport requests.

Demand and Bottlenecks

Approximately 25% of transport requests were unfulfilled due to staffing constraints, showing operational challenges.

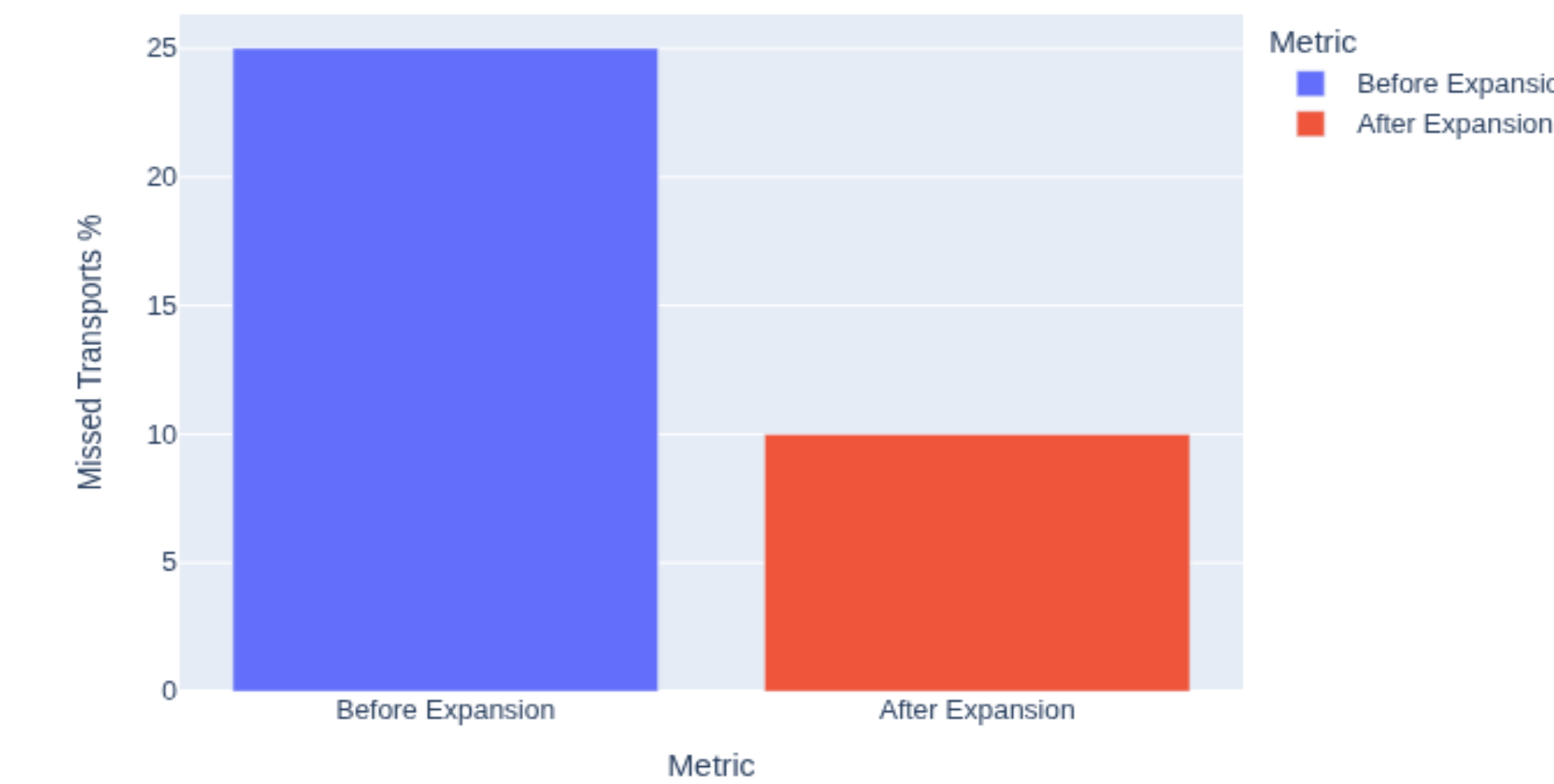
Advocacy and Leadership

Team advocacy led leadership to approve adding a second nurse per shift, improving capacity.

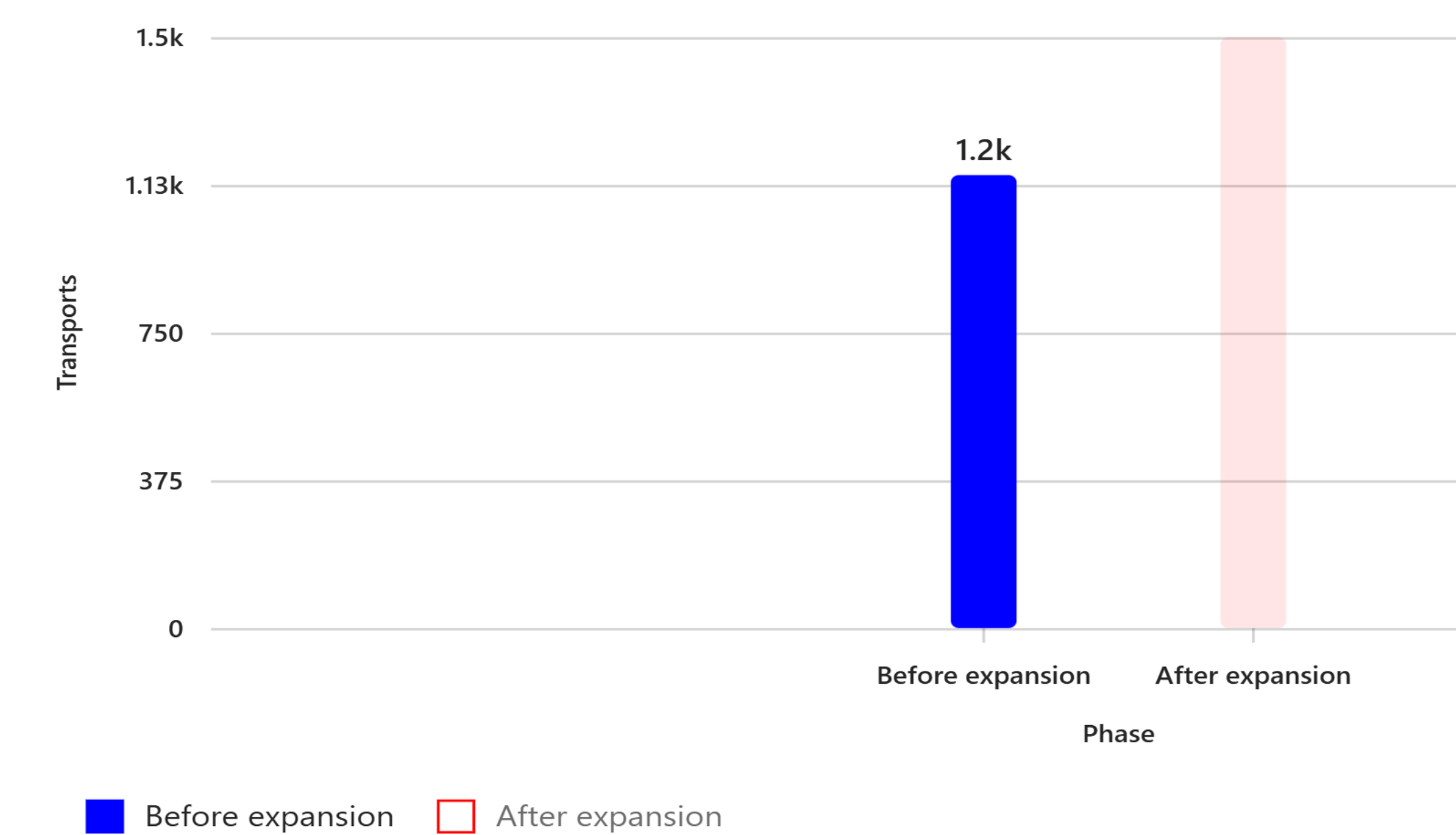


OUTCOMES

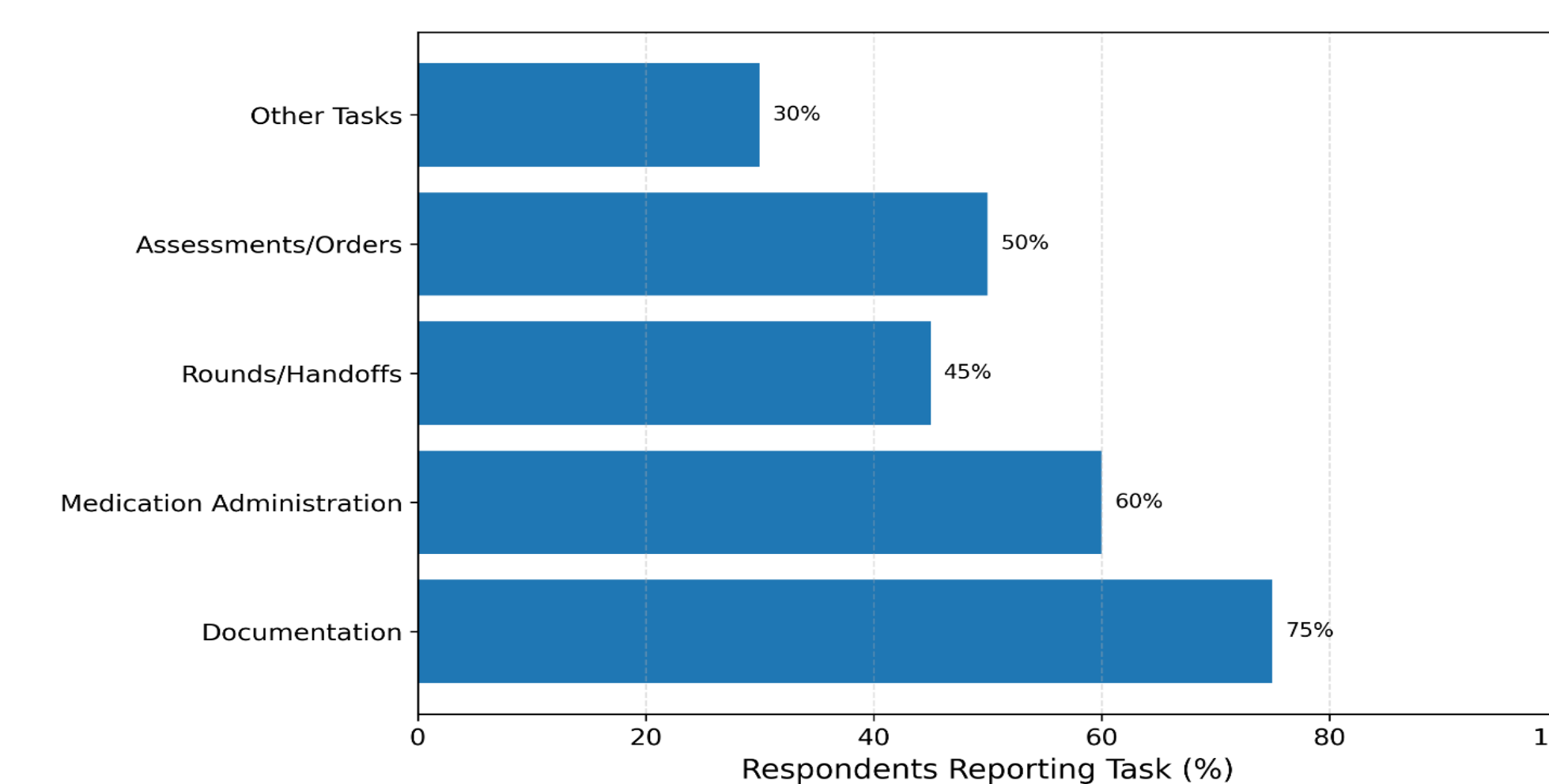
Missed Transport Reduction



Transport Growth



Bedside Nurse Tasks Completed During Transport



FUTURE PLANS

Technology Integration

Team would like to explore leveraging technology to streamline communication between the team, bedside RNs, and various Radiology areas in order to make transports more efficient.

Continuous Evaluation & Adaptation

The team will continue to collect data related to patient transports to assess existing needs and potential gaps. This may allow the team to determine if there is a need to increase our staffing and potentially explore increasing coverage to nights/weekends/critical care areas.



CREATION OF RADIOLOGY TRANSPORT ROLE

Specialized Radiology Transport Team

A dedicated Team of nurses trained across all inpatient general and critical care areas, to transport and monitor patients during diagnostic tests ensures specialized patient care and safety.

Workload Alleviation and Efficiency

The team reduces bedside nurses' workload and stress, improving operational efficiency and patient care quality.

Enhance Patient Safety

Continuous monitoring during patient transport enhances safety and ensures continuity of care throughout procedures.

Collaborative Care Culture

Reallocating resources to create specialized roles fosters collaboration and a culture of safety in the hospital setting.

MEASUREABLE IMPROVEMENTS

Increased Transport Efficiency

The two-nurse model improved transport completion by 29%, enabling 1,499 transports in the first year.

Reduced Missed Requests

Missed transport requests dropped by 15%, demonstrating enhanced responsiveness and reliability.

Positive Staff Feedback

Bedside nurses reported less stress and improved workflow, boosting patient safety and care quality.

Operational Success

Overall demand grew 68%, reflecting trust in the transport team and sustained operational improvements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to our department leadership for their valuable guidance and support of the Radiology Transport Role.

