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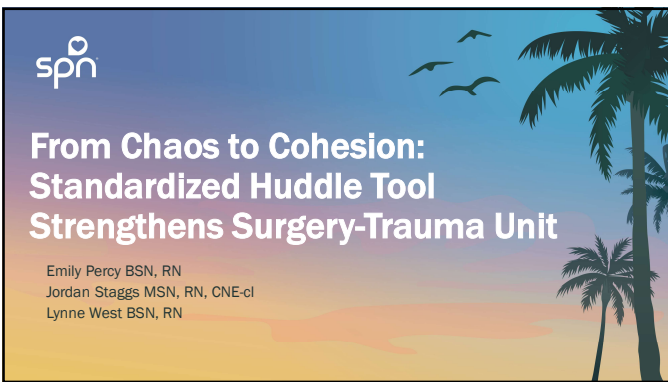
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**Objectives:**

This session will enable the learner to

- Describe the benefits of a standardized huddle tool for patient safety and the provision of quality care.
- Identify components of team communication through a standardized huddle tool.
- Evaluate the impact of using a standardized huddle tool on teamwork and communication.

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**Background** 



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**Background** 

**Our Promise**



Knowing every child's life is sacred, we promise to improve the well-being of every child in our care and our communities.

To live up to this promise, Cook Children's combines the art of caring with the use of leading technology and extraordinary collaboration to provide exceptional care for every child, every day.

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**Background** 

- Unit Demographics:
  - Pediatric surgery trauma unit
  - 32 private patient rooms
  - East and West



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### Background



- Unit Leadership:
  - Nurse Managers – Days and Nights
  - Nurse Supervisors – Days and Nights
  - Clinical Nurse Leader
  - Professional Development Coordinator




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### Background



- Nurses
  - Day Shift - 32
  - Night Shift - 31
- Ancillary Staff
  - Day Shift - 7
  - Night Shift - 7
- Child Life Therapist - 2




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### Background




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### Identified Gap



- Inefficient communication due to unit design
- Nurses were siloed within their patient assignments
- Lack of teamwork contributed to delays in patient care and documentation.

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### Literature Review:



- Ineffective communication among healthcare professionals contributes to poor outcomes and is responsible for nearly 80% of serious medical errors.
- Standardized huddles improve team situational awareness, enhance interprofessional collaboration, and foster a culture of safety, particularly in high-acuity environments.

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### PICOT Question



"In the surgery-trauma unit, does implementation of a standardized huddle tool compared to individual updates improve communication and teamwork within a 12-hour shift."

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**Huddle Tool** 

- Collaborated with staff to create a structured huddle tool.
  - Customizable to be engaging
  - Preferred a virtual tool rather than in-person
  - Integrate updates throughout the shift



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**Implementation** 

- Staff were oriented to the process during staff meetings and in the unit's weekly newsletter.
- Charge nurses initiate a full team virtual huddle at the beginning of each 12-hour shift and maintain message with pertinent updates as needed.
- Virtual discussion includes identification of high-risk patients, new admissions, staffing concerns, operational priorities, and one rotating organizational priority.

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**Huddle Tool** 

We have #00 patients on the unit. #00 are 1:3s and we have NONFO patients in room's #00, #00. We have #00 pts on the OR schedule and #00 possible discharges.

Our PCT(s) is/are \_\_\_\_\_. Secretary is \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is up for our first admission and \_\_\_\_\_ is up for our second admission.

Today's Reminder is:

Sunday: Don't forget to put in your k-cards for the month!

Monday: Please work together today to offer our patients baths, oral hygiene, and linen changes.

Tuesday: Remember to document your pain reassessments today and use your buddy if you need help.

Wednesday: Please work together today to offer our patients baths, oral hygiene, and linen changes.

Thursday: TLC those PIVs!

Friday: During downtime today work together to stock and tidy SST.

Saturday: Please work together today to offer our patients baths, oral hygiene, and linen changes.

Buddies are \_\_\_\_\_.

Let's have a great day! Let me know how I can help you.

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**Huddle Tool** 

We have #00 patients on the unit. #00 are 1:3s and we have NONFO patients in room's #00, #00. We have #00 pts on the OR schedule and #00 possible discharges.

Our PCT(s) is/are \_\_\_\_\_. Secretary is \_\_\_\_\_.

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Saturday: Please work together today to offer our patients baths, oral hygiene, and linen changes.

Buddies are \_\_\_\_\_.

Let's have a great day! Let me know how I can help you.

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**Huddle Tool** 

Charge Nurse Sabrina 3/1/2026 8:00am



Good morning & Happy Wednesday 5STE!!  
 Today is going to be a great day!!  
 We are starting today with 15 patients on East side, 1:3s in 1, 7, and 10, with 6 possible discharges and 4 on the surgery schedule.  
 Becca is our PCT and Sherry is our secretary today.  
 Buddies are Jess/Josh, Lauren/Elsa, Steph/Mia.  
 Please let me know how I can help you today!!



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**Huddle Tool** 

Charge Nurse Erika 3/1/2026 8:00am



Happy Amazing YOU Day! Each and every one of you 🚀 is a magical little rocketstar! Don't ever let yourself believe otherwise!!!! "What could you be if you could give and experience unconditional love for yourself?" 🤗

This morning, we are starting with 5 nurses, Linda is our PCT, Sherry is our secretary, and we have 14 patients; 1:3s are in 27 and 29, 19 kids in the ED waiting for beds, 2 direct admits planned and 9 on the surgery schedule. We have 3-4 discharges.

Buddies: Diana/Lauren, Morgan/Steph, Dan/Erika

Kelly Jones will be here for discharges today. Please let me know how I can best help you to have the best day ever!

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**Huddle Tool** 


Charge Nurse Dan 3/1/2026 8:00am



Good morning and Happy cookie Wednesday! We are expecting 5ish DC's today, 1:3 in rm 4, 7 on OR list, 4 is No info.

Don't forget to do your K-cards! No foley's or CVL's today. I will be in a care conference for 4 at 9:30.

Buddies are Elisa/AG, Steph/Erika. Let me know if I can help!



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**Huddle Tool** 

Charge Nurse Stephanie 3/1/2026 8:00am



Good morning and Happy Tuesday! Today may be a doozy, 32 on the unit, 13 Possible DCs, 14 on the surgery schedule. Saddle up partners! Room 5 and 10 have foleys for you eager beavers who want to do those k-cards. PCT is Caroline and Secretary is Kelly. KJ is here to do d/c's! Buddies... Haylee/Lauren, AG, Sulema.



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**Huddle Tool** 

Charge Nurse Stephanie 3/1/2026 8:00am



HAPPY MEDICAL MONDAY. Already started off hot with a med alert. We have C+6 with Bertha as sec and Tony from float pool as PCT! We have a 1:3 in room 18. We have 2 dcs and Lisette is here! First admit is Chloes. Please let me know if you need anything!



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### Huddle Tool



Charge Nurse Macie 3/1/2026 8:00am  
 Hey Team! We're getting a patient in room 4 from Surgery. They should arrive in 10 minutes. Can anyone help Shelby get them settled? She's doing a procedure in room 10.

Nurse Josh 3/1/2026 8:05am  
 I can get vitals and go over the admission packet!

Nurse Maria 3/1/2026 10:00am  
 I'm heading down to CT with a kiddo. Can y'all listen out for my patients? I just checked my IVs so they shouldn't need anything. CT should take 35 minutes.

Nurse Shelby 3/1/2026 10:30am  
 Thanks for helping settle my new patient, Josh! Maria I'll peek in on your kids while you're downstairs.

Charge Nurse Macie 3/1/2026 5:30pm  
 Y'all we are so close to night shift!! Please make sure your I&Os are up to date and come give me updates when you have a minute.

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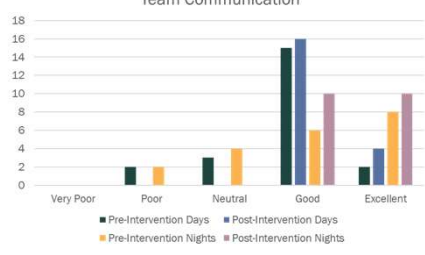
22

### Data Collection



- Evaluation of data from post-implementation surveys revealed improved communication between all team members, stronger teamwork during unit admissions, and increased situational awareness.

Team Communication



Category	Pre-Intervention Days	Post-Intervention Days	Pre-Intervention Nights	Post-Intervention Nights
Very Poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	2	2	2	2
Neutral	3	3	4	4
Good	15	16	6	10
Excellent	2	4	8	10

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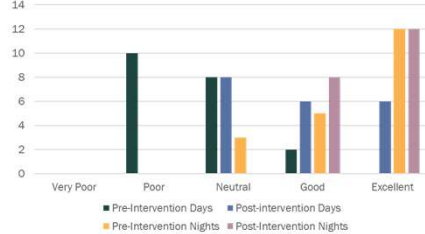
23

### Data Collection



- Evaluation of data from post-implementation surveys revealed improved communication between all team members, stronger teamwork during unit admissions, and increased situational awareness.

Teamwork



Category	Pre-Intervention Days	Post-Intervention Days	Pre-Intervention Nights	Post-Intervention Nights
Very Poor	0	0	0	0
Poor	10	10	0	0
Neutral	8	8	3	3
Good	2	6	5	8
Excellent	6	6	12	12

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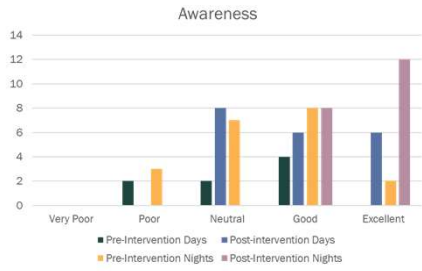
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### Data Collection



- Evaluation of data from post-implementation surveys revealed improved communication between all team members, stronger teamwork during unit admissions, and increased situational awareness.



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### Barriers:



- Skepticism from staff
  - Standardizing a tool may be impersonal
  - Concerned about adding additional responsibilities for charge nurses at the beginning of shift.

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### Lessons Learned:



- Value of leadership support and consistent messaging
- Importance of flexibility
- Evolution of the tool as needed
- Importance of all-staff inclusion

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**From Chaos to Cohesion:  
Standardized Huddle Tool  
Strengthens Surgery-Trauma Unit**

Emily Percy BSN, RN  
 Jordan Staggs MSN, RN, CNE-cl  
 Lynne West BSN, RN

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