

Quality Improvement In Focus: The Development of Guidelines for Wound Photo Documentation



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BACKGROUND

Wound photos are increasingly becoming standard of care to augment written medical documentation.

Wound photos are used to support

- Wound etiology
- Treatment plan
- Wound progression

The lack of standardized guidelines can lead to inconsistent and ineffective practices. Our ongoing Quality Improvement project focuses on developing evidence-based guidelines for wound photo documentation to enhance accuracy, privacy and clinical utility at our facility.

METHODOLOGY/APPROACH

Scopes/Aims

- Wound Ostomy Continence (WOC) Team
- Determine and implement best practice for wound image capture

Approach

- Small group education for WOC Team on literature recommended best practice elements for wound image capture.
- PDSA Cycles beginning with elements of lowest compliance.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Literature Recommended Best Practice Elements
- Written Consent
 - HIPAA Compliant Device
 - Date
 - Patient Identifier
 - Measuring Device
 - Near/Far Photos 1' and 3' Distances
 - Identifiable Anatomy
 - Focus
 - Lighting
 - Parallel Camera Angle
 - Limited Background distraction

Examples of Poor and Good Quality Clinical Photos



Clinical photos should always be a clear and accurate representation of the wound.

OUTCOMES

PDSA Cycles x 3

Cycle 1 - 1' and 3' distance - improvement from 13.5% to 95% (which also improved identifiable anatomy from 52.8% to 93.8%)

Cycle 2 - Camera angle - improvement from 30.3% to 98.4%

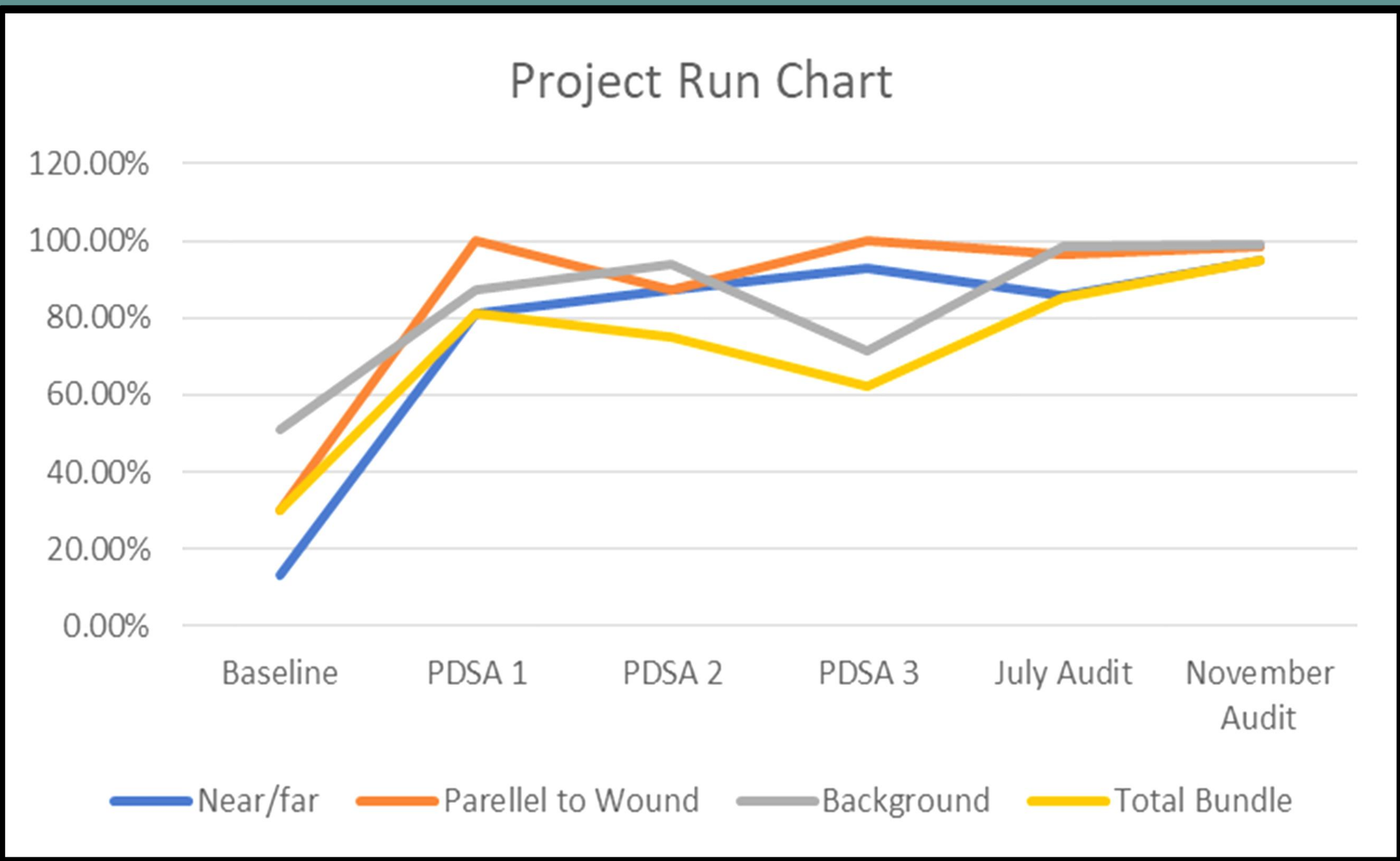
Cycle 3 - Background distraction - improvement from 13.5% to 95%

Clinical photos should support and enhance written documentation.

CONCLUSIONS

Clear, explicit, evidence-based guidelines that adhere to confidentiality and privacy requirements must be outlined for actualizing best practices in wound photo documentation. Ownership over best practices through peer review sustains practices that document wound healing and manage treatment plans. Barriers to best practice were noted to be limitations in patient positioning due to medical condition and volume of medical devices leading to background distractions in photos.

Phase II of the project involves expanding the project to bedside nursing units.



References

