

# Improving Safety During Transitions of Care Through the Use of Electronic Referral Loops to Receive and Reconcile Health Information

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## BACKGROUND

- Medicare's Promoting Interoperability Program evaluates how often outside clinical information is reconciled during hospitalizations.
- •ECU Health certified pharmacy technicians completed medication and allergy reconciliation after patient admissions.
- No role reconciled medical problems

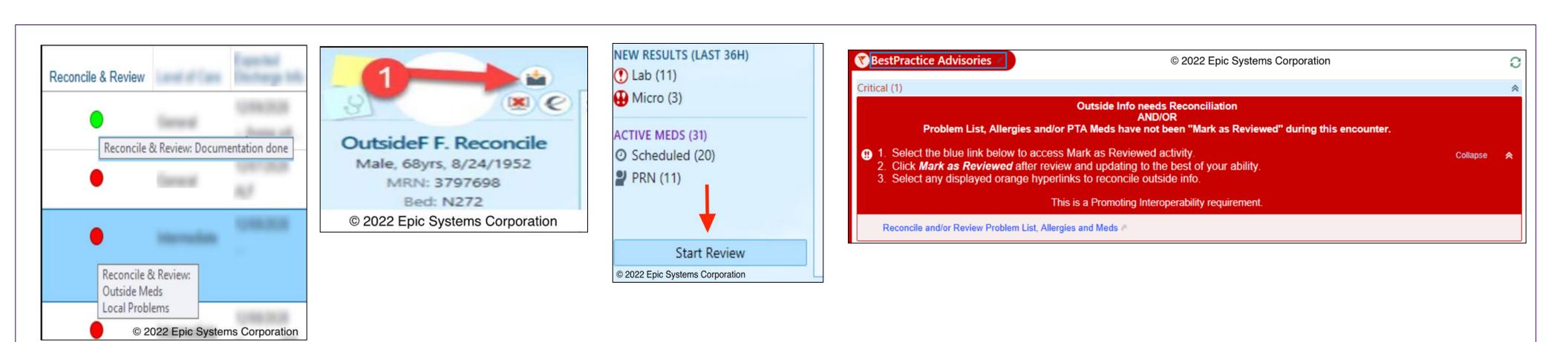
## PROJECT AIM

We sought to increase rates of complete reconciliation of patient problems, medications, AND allergies to 80% of hospitalizations for 90 consecutive days at all eight hospitals in an academic medical system by December 31, 2021.

### PROJECT DESIGN/STRATEGY

- Determined baseline performance
- Solidified EHR workflows (3 PDSAs)
- Trained physicians and mid-level providers to reconcile (23 PDSAs)
- Monitored a sustainability period (6 months).

# **CHANGES MADE (PDSA CYCLES)**



PDSA 1, 3, 21: Solidify EHR workflows

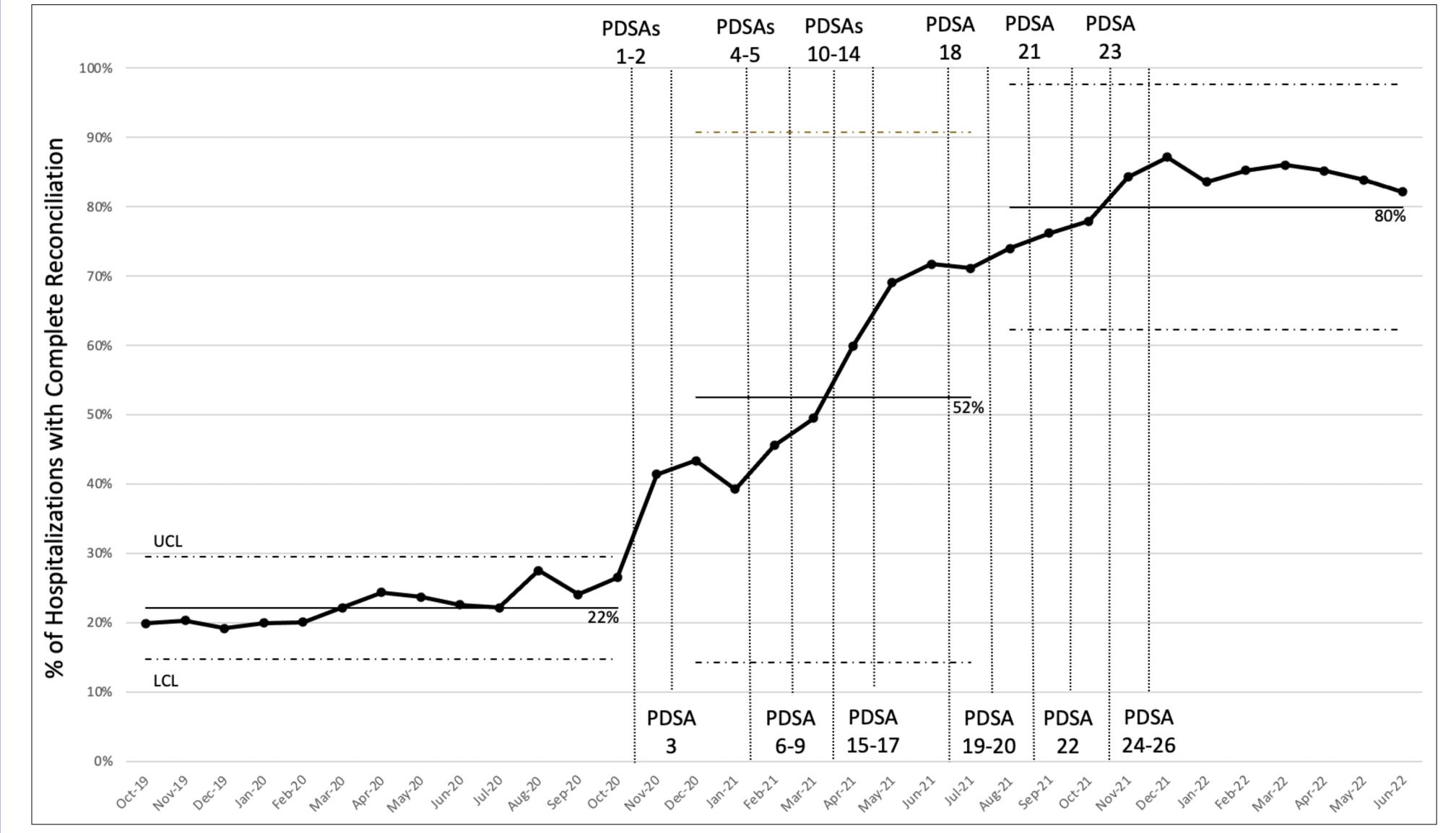
PDSA 2, 4-20, 22-26: Train medical providers on primary teams at all hospitals:

ECUHMC General Hospitalists
ECUHMC Oncology Hospitalists
ECUHMC Cardiology Hospitalists
ECU Family Medicine
ECU Internal Medicine
ECU Surgery

ECU Palliative Care
ECU Pediatrics
ECU OB/GYN
Greenville OB/GYN
Greenville Women's
ECU Beaufort Hospitalists

ECU Duplin Hospitalists
TOBH Hospitalists
ECU RCH Hospitalists
ECU Chowan Hospitalists
ECU Edgecombe Hospitalists
ECU Bertie Hospitalists

## RESULTS/OUTCOMES



- All eight hospitals achieved the aim in 2021
- 7/8 hospitals achieved the goal for 2022 during the sustainability period.
- System-level performance satisfied criteria for baseline shift twice
- Overall performance remained within control limits during the sustainability period.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Initial EHR workflows were inefficient
- Training clinical services was the most effective
- One training session with hospitalists at community hospitals was usually sufficient.
- ECU Health Medical Center required 10+ inpatient primary teams, including private practice groups.
- Live workflow demonstrations improved training effectiveness
- Obtaining service-specific performance data improved follow-up efforts after training.
- Outside information contained duplicative information that the EHR was not able to automatically discard.

## NEXT STEPS

- Continued monitoring in future years
- Follow up with divisions whose performance decreases
- Provide incentive bonuses to ambulatory physicians and mid-level providers that achieve goal.

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