



Implementation of Daily Huddle Improves Transitions and Patient Safety on a Busy Academic Regional Anesthesiology Service: A Quality Improvement Project

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INTRODUCTION

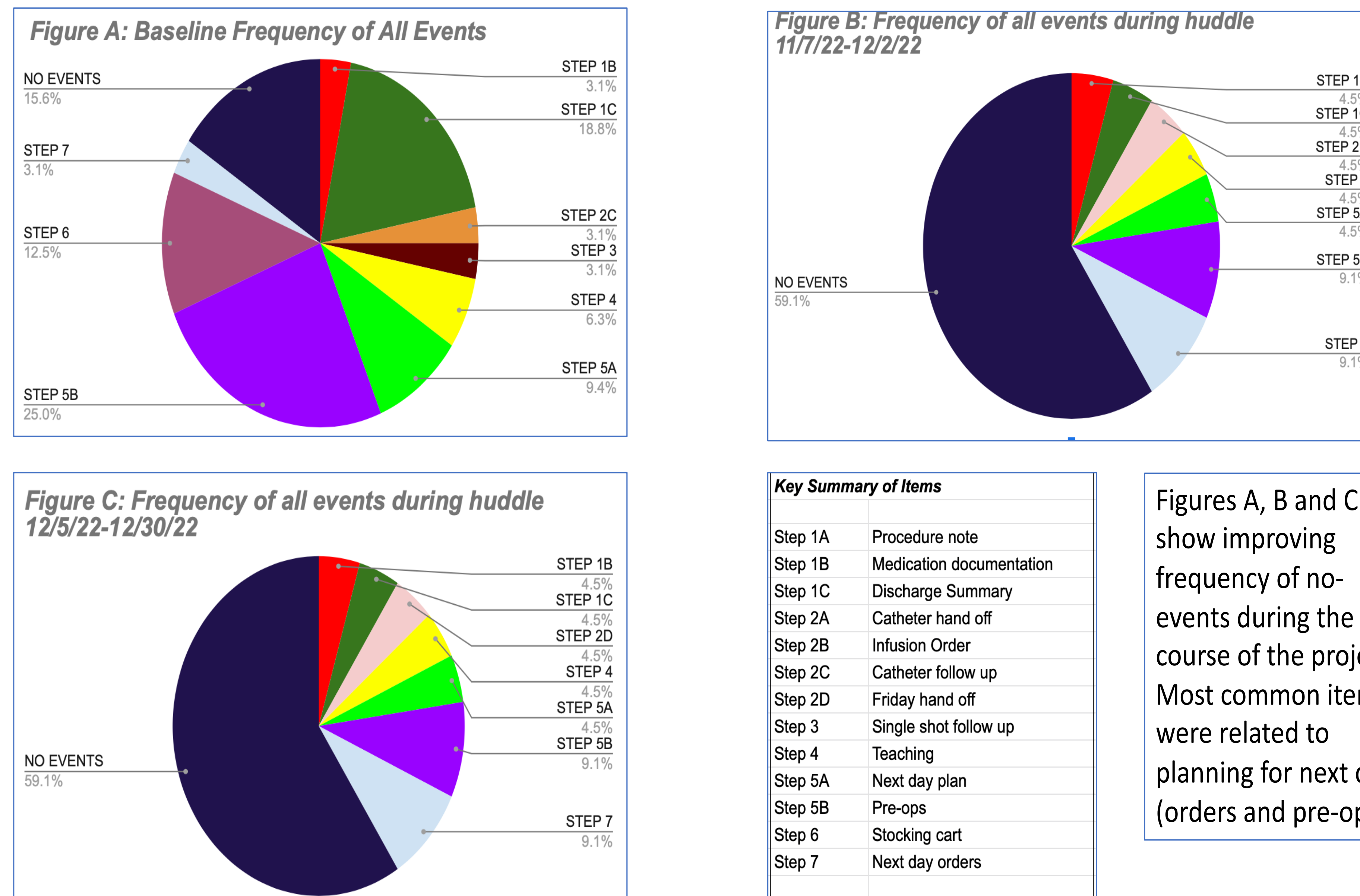
- Goals: Patient safety, Effective communication, Teamwork, Team coordination
- Aim: daily engagement and proactive communication, identify best practices and processes to ensure smooth functioning of regional anesthesiology service, and address barriers
- Challenges: multiple rotators and attending daily, busy academic regional anesthesiology service
- Huddles shown to improve team functioning and communication. Improve patient care, reduce adverse events, improve provider engagement and supportive practice, improved situational awareness and safety climate, and increased patient satisfaction
- Little published literature on the use of huddles in regional anesthesiology
- Quality improvement (QI) project to introduce huddles

MATERIALS & METHODS

- Checklist of huddle items, via feedback from attending, rotating residents, fellows, and nurses
- Events included: nerve catheters not being communicated to the weekend team, missed orders for nerve catheter infusions, missed nerve catheter connections in the PACU, missed documentation
- Baseline data on items missed over three weeks, identified barriers to the huddle
- “go-live” announcement
- Data collected every day items that were missed
- PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act) cycles and run charts with weekly data to monitor and evaluate the impact of the huddle
- Every two weeks, shared data n commonly missed items with the team.

RESULTS

FIGURE 1



RESULTS

- 15.6% no events at baseline, improved to 59%
- 76% of days with at least one missed item to 37% and 32% in subsequent 2 week intervals. (figure 2A).
- Marked reduction in the number of missed items, as shown in figure 2B.
- Commonly missed items: planning for next day
- Missed discharge summary documentation steadily decreased.

DISCUSSION

- Daily huddles led to reduction in near misses, improved planning and team efficiency
- Requires buy-in from all members
- Regular communication and identification of barriers key to successful implementation
- We demonstrate the effectiveness of daily huddles in improving team functioning and adherence to patient safety practices.
- Further research is needed to understand broader impact of huddles and to determine the best practices for implementing and maintain them.

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FIGURE 2

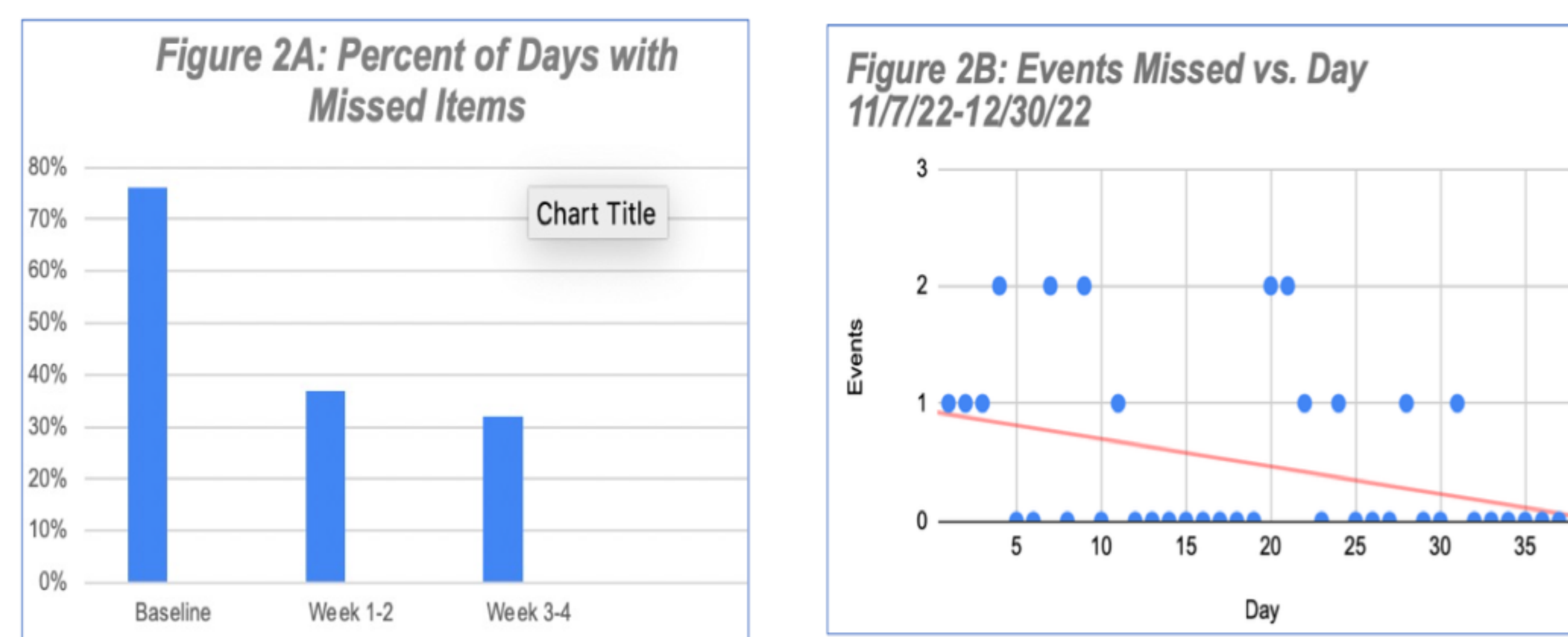


Figure 2A: Graph showing the percent of days with missed items at baseline, and at two-week intervals after go-live.

Figure 2B: Scatter plot of missed items by day.