Leader Rounding: Creating a Safety Culture for Patients and Workers

Mangla Gulati, MD, FACP, SFHM^{1,2}, Kathryn Heacock, DNP, APRN-CNS, CRNP³, Margaret Murphy, MBA⁴

¹Chief Quality Officer, Vice President for Patient Safety and Clinical Effectiveness, University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore, MD

²Chief Quality and Safety Officer, Washington Hospital Center, Medstar Health, Washington, DC

³Clinical Nurse Specialist, R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore, MD

⁴Program Manager, Division of Quality and Safety, University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore, MD

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1. Discuss how intentional rounding embodies principles of high-reliability organizations.
- 2. Explain how to prioritize, escalate and resolve healthcare worker concerns with loop closure using visual dashboards.
- 3. Apply key principles of restoring joy to existing or new leader rounding programs.

Target Audience: CEOs, CMOs, CNOs, CQOs, Hospital Executives, Directors, Managers, Supervisors, Quality & Performance Improvement, and Patient Safety.

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

- Problem: UMMC saw reductions in the Teamwork and Hospital
 Management Support for Patient Safety domains on the Agency for
 Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Culture of Safety Survey
- Burnout impacts >50% of U.S. healthcare workers and **causes reduced professional efficacy** and negatively influences patient, nurse, and organizational outcomes.^{4,9}
- Leader rounding with concern resolution and positive encouragement is associated with lower rates of healthcare workforce burnout and improved safety cultures.
- Proposed Solution: Create a leader rounding program to improve domains.

METHODS

- We **flipped the script** to find out what matters to our team members tracking both their **concerns** and **bright spots**.
 - Create **talking points** for leader and project managers
 - Ask team members what matters to them
 - Design **form** to document feedback
- We collected feedback from frontline team members by:
 - Partnering a **Leader** and a **Project Manager** for every round
 - Documented feedback using form
- Concerns resolutions were prioritized using a Pick Chart
- Display feedback on a **dashboard** tracking feedback themes and existing concern resolution process.
- **Loop closure** was provided to the unit or team member responsible for reporting concern.

RESULTS During 16 week pilot, 22 Rounds were completed, 111 Feedback items were collected. (59% Concerns, 41% Bright Spots) 50% of concerns had themes of patient safety. 26% of concerns led to organization change 30% of concerns under consideration for additional change High Reliability Rounding: HRO Steering STATUS DASHBOARD **Driving Toward** Deference to Expertise Status All Concerns **1CALL Submissions Over Time** Closed With No Chang Roles Reporting Feedback **Bright Spot Theme** connection to UMMC Values Food Service Personal Resilience Senior Leader Local Leader Senior Leader Local Leader **Concern Resolution Count Over Time** Resolved with Solution Closed no Change Under Consideration



LESSONS LEARNED

- Engage executive leadership early for buy-in, project approval, and barrier to resolution escalation.
- Provide education and talking points for rounding leaders.
- Team members care about patient safety as shown in 50% of concerns had themes of patient safety.
- Classify progress in terms of High Reliability Organization Principles.
- Provide regular updates and loop closure with frontline.
- Use existing processes for issue resolution and escalation.
- You don't need to have all the answers, just start somewhere.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Use purposeful leader rounding to improve patient safety and restore joy in work.
- Develop a concern-resolution system.
- Patient Safety is important to our workforce.
 - 50% of workforce concerns had themes of patient safety.
- Workforce **burnout interventions** are **patient safety interventions**.
- The people closest to the work are the experts in their environment.
- Finding the good is just as important as finding the opportunities.

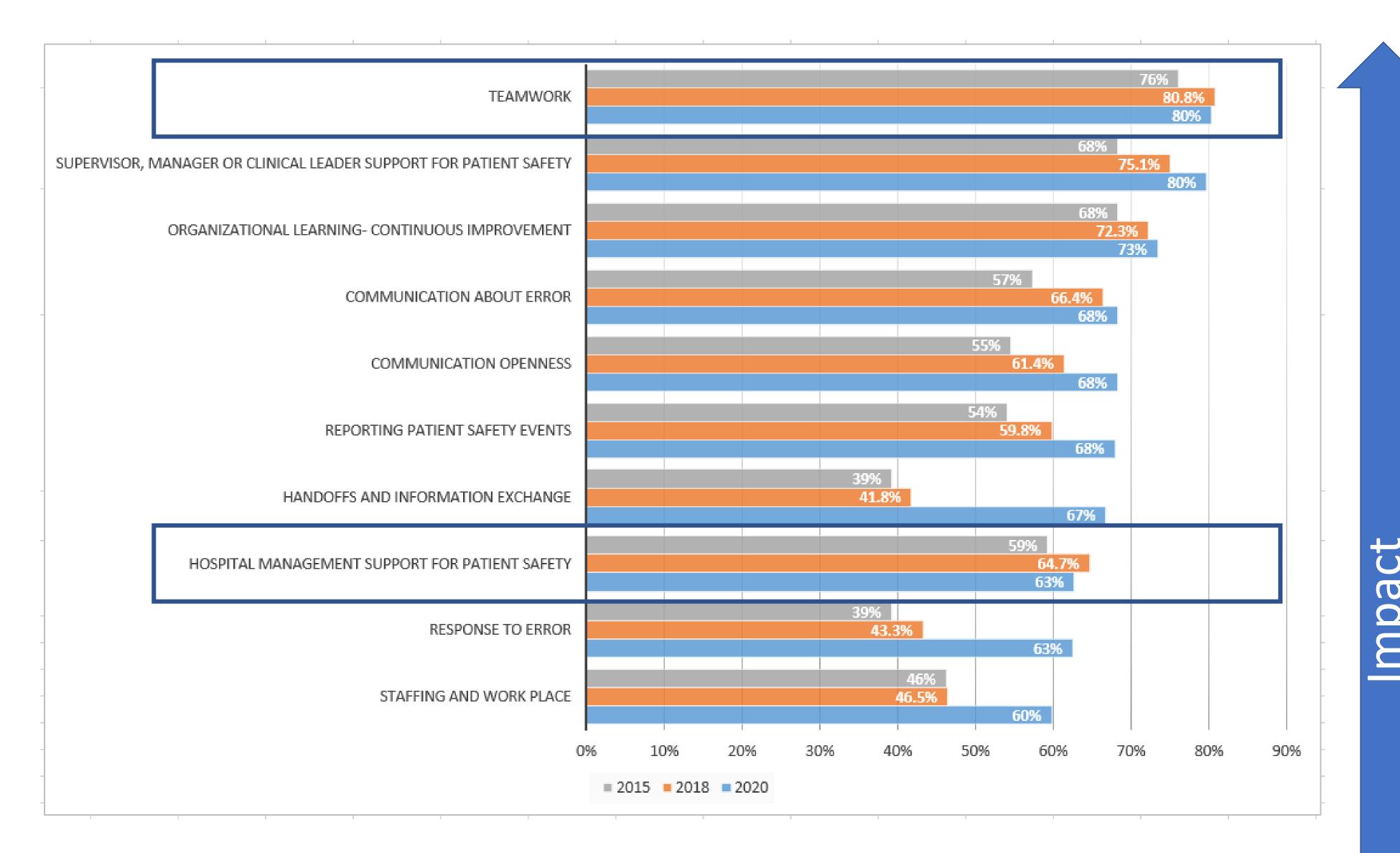
REFERENCES

- L. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. (2019, September 7). High reliability. Patient Safety Network. https://psnet.ahrq.gov/primer/high-reliability
- 2. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. (2023). Surveys on patient safety culture. https://www.ahrq.gov/sops/index.html
- 3. Jacobson, G. (2022). 5 principles of a high reliability organization (HRO). Kai Nexus. https://blog.kainexus.com/improvement-disciplines/hro/5-principles
- 4. Office of Surgeon General. (2022). Addressing health worker burnout. *The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on Building a Thriving Health Workforce*. https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/priorities/health-worker-burnout/index.html
- 5. Panagioti, M., Panagopoulou, E., Bower, P., Lewith, G., Kontopantelis, E., Chew-Graham, C., Dawson, S., van Marwijk, H., Geraghty, K., & Esmail, A. (2017). Controlled interventions to reduce burnout in physicians: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 177(2), 195–205. https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/2588814
- 6. Perlo J., Balik B., Swensen S., Kabcenell A., Landsman J., Feeley D. (2019). IHI Framework for Improving Joy in Work. IHI White Paper. Cambridge Massachusetts: *Institute for Healthcare Improvement*. http://www.ihi.org/resources/Pages/IHIWhitePapers/Framework-Improving-Joy-in-Work.aspx
- 7. Sexton, J. B., Adair, K. C., Leonard, M. W., Frankel, T. C., Proulx, J., Watson, S. R., Magnus, B., Bogan, B., Jamal, M., Schwendimann, R., & Frankel, A. S. (2018). Providing feedback following Leadership WalkRounds is associated with better patient safety culture, higher employee engagement and lower burnout. BMJ Quality & Safety, 27(4), 261–270. https://doi-org.proxy-hs.researchport.umd.edu/10.1136/bmjqs-2016-006399
- 8. Sexton, J. B., Adair, K. C., Profit, J., Bae, J., Rehder, K. J., Gosselin, T., Milne, J., Leonard, M., & Frankel, A. (2021). Safety culture and workforce well-being associations with positive leadership walkrounds. *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety*. https://doi-org.proxy-hs.researchport.umd.edu/10.1016/j.jcjq.2021.04.001
- World Health Organization. (2019). Burn-out an 'occupational phenomenon': International classification of diseases. https://www.who.int/news/item/28
 05-2019-burn-out-an-occupational-phenomenon-international-classification-of-diseases

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Mangla Gulati, MD, FACP, SFHM Mangla.S.Gulati@medstar.net
- Kathryn Heacock, DNP, APRN-CNS, CRNP <u>kathryn.heacock@umm.edu</u>
- Margaret Murphy, MBA <u>margaret.murphy@umm.edu</u>

No one in a position to control the content of this educational activity has relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies.



Previous Rounding Limitations

- Concern prioritization
- Loop closure with team
- Organization between rounds

Quick Wins "Just Do It"

Executive Leader, Program Manager, or Team Member

Resolved on the spot

- Counseling on policy
- Directing to point of contact
- Solving with team member in moment

Major Project "Schedule"

Executive Sponsor

Multiple months

- Alignment with strategic priorities
- Added to existing objective or initiated as one-off project

Delegate

Subject Matter Expert – Local/Unit Manager

Resolved within 5 business days

- Changes to current process
- Additional training

Parking Lot

Executive Sponsor

On Hold

- Acknowledgement of true pebble in the shoe
- Misalignment with strategic priorities

Effort

ule wlill soon



Results

22 Rounds, 16 Weeks, 111 Feedback Items

• 59% concerns, 41% bright spots

Concerns

- 61% Choice in Hospital Decisions
- 44% Choice in Local Decisions
- 26% Teamwork

Bright Spots

- 73% Teamwork
- 31% Choice in Hospital Decisions
- 27% Choice in Local Decisions

- 26% of concerns lead to organizational change
- 30% under consideration for additional change
- 50% had themes of patient safety

