Background

- Handoff is used at the beginning and end of all nursing shifts. This is used to share important information regarding your patient care.
- In the case that pts. are transferred to different level of care and units, what is preferred in handoff between each unit can change. Standardized handoffs between units throughout the hospital improves communication and pt. care as well as reducing nursing errors and end of shift overtime.
- This EBP will evaluate what contents would be included.

Practice Change

Assess current state of handoff between units. Assess if standardized handoffs are desirable, and what contents would be included.

Methods

- Individually passing out surveys to staff nurses both on day and night shift at beginning of shift, throughout all units listed at EMMC, picking up surveys at the end of shifts each day. (See Appendix A)
- Analyze data collected and measuring if standardized handoff is desirable.

Measures and Results

Nursing Handoff Procedure Survey

- Individually
- "Standardized form" changed

Results

- Through all nurses surveyed, no overwhelming census for standardized nursing handoff.
- Critical care units more against standardization than others.

Limitations / Challenges

- Short staffing
  - With already limited staff, staff was too busy to fill out survey
- Diversion
  - When ED is on diversion nurses are too busy to fill out survey
  - Units receiving patient to help ED numbers become too busy to fill out survey
- Survey wording
  - Some nursing answered both written and verbal when asked what method is utilized
  - “Standardized form” changed throughout unit

Conclusion

References