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Workplace Prevention and Control of COVID-19 Compliance Monitoring

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INTRODUCTION

Safety measures for workplaces have been implemented to protect workers from COVID-19, with local government agencies and international organizations emphasizing the need for infection prevention. The Philippines' Interagency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) has provided guidelines for employers to implement.

Makati Medical Center (MMC) implements policies and guidelines to ensure safety and efficiency. However, the hospital's diverse services require minimal movement, making monitoring and cascading information challenging for Occupational Safety & Health Officers.

AIM

To monitor and impose the implementation of the policies and protocols on COVID-19, the OSH Committee's Safety Officers (SO) Link, and the Quality, Safety, and Compliance Champions (QSCC) were delegated to monitor and disseminate the policies of the hospital regarding COVID-19 to their respective areas of jurisdiction.

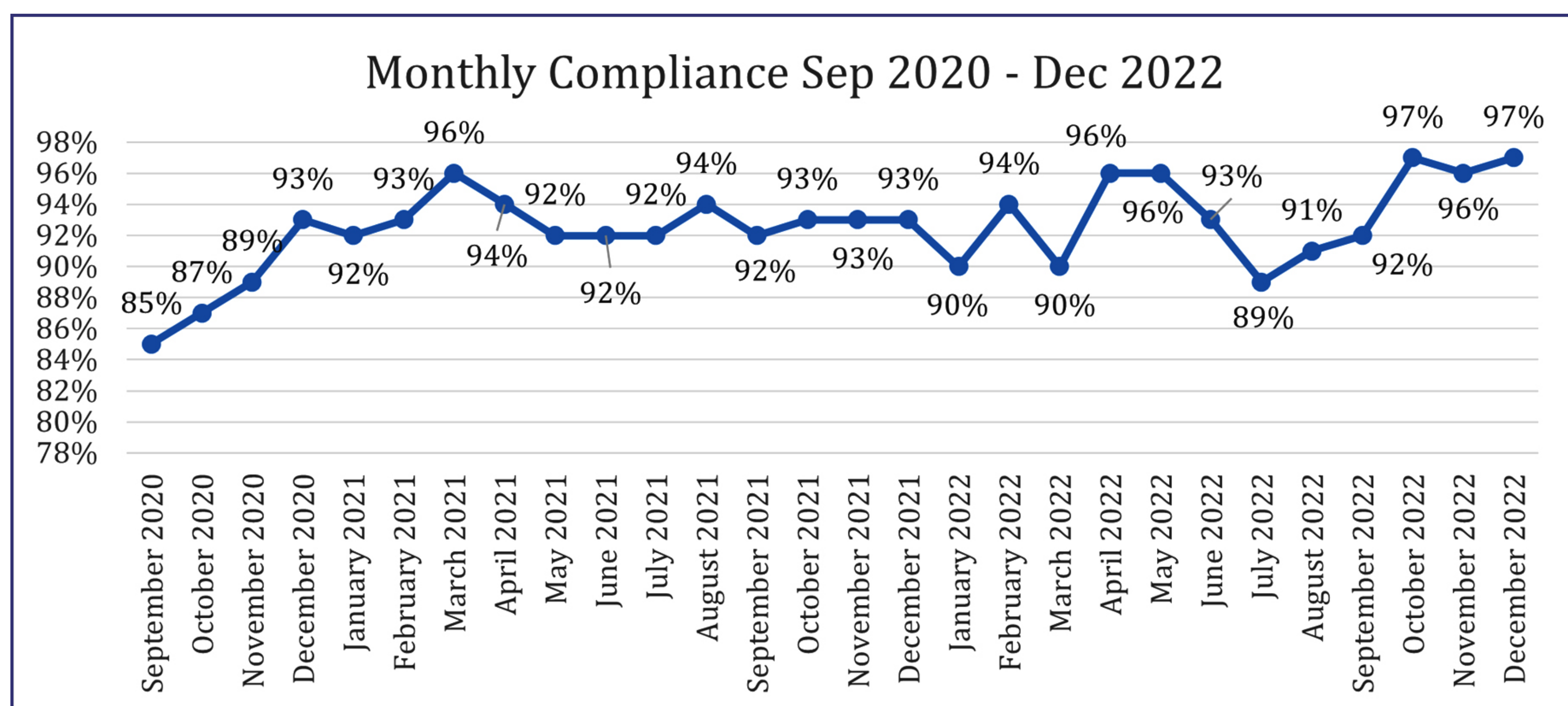
METHOD

In October and November 2020, the policies and guidelines were initially disseminated via OSH Huddles, virtual lectures, and evaluations. After the sessions, safety officers and QSCCs were provided with additional resources and lectures thru the OSH Kit for universality. Materials were also available on the Team Site.

The Environmental Rounds commenced in September 2020, with Safety Officers and QSCCs receiving a checklist from the OSH Committee. The checklist included DTI-DOLE-DOH, IATF, and hospital Infection Prevention Control Department parameters on general guidelines, shuttle services, meetings, client interaction, breaks, and Employee Daily Health Checks and Referral system. Which was constantly reviewed as the protocols eased. The OSH Officers collected responses and presented findings to the committee and hospital leadership.

RESULTS

OSH Officers did OSH Huddles last October & November 2020; a refresher in October & November 2021 was also conducted. The OSH Huddle session attendees scored an average of 93% for the learning evaluation for October & November 2020 and 93.5% for the refresher last October & November 2021. Some departments requested additional sessions during March & April 2021, with a learning evaluation average of 90%. The compliance ratings were monitored throughout the year and were averaged monthly. As shown in Fig. 1., staff compliance with COVID-19 policies and guidelines has consistently increased by 2-4% per month.



The average yearly compliance shows a constant increase in compliance rating in 2020 at 88.5%, in 2021 at 93% (4.5% increase from 2020), and 93.41% in 2022 (0.41% increase from 2021), respectively.

OSH committee reviewed parameters to ensure government regulations compliance and address rapid drop in compliance ratings. Other actions done during the decrease in compliance were as follows:

1. Sending of Email Updates & Reminders to QSCCs and SOs (February 2021, January 2022, April 2022, July 2022, October 2022)
2. Administrative & Engineering Controls related to COVID-19 were revisited and enhanced during the OSH Committee & Safety Officers Link meetings (August 2020, October 2020, April 2021, March, and April 2022)
3. Provision of additional Engineering controls such as additional hand rubs, placement of acrylic barriers, and conversion of ordinary rooms to pressure-regulated rooms
4. Additional signage and reminders are posted throughout the hospital.

CONCLUSIONS

The 2-4% increase in the monthly compliance rating and the yearly growth of the annual compliance ratings from 88.5% in 2020 to 93.41% in 2022 shows that constant information dissemination and monitoring can increase staff compliance with COVID-19 workplace prevention and control protocols. Information dissemination and monitoring thru delegation up to the unit levels help improve staff adherence to COVID-19 protocols.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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