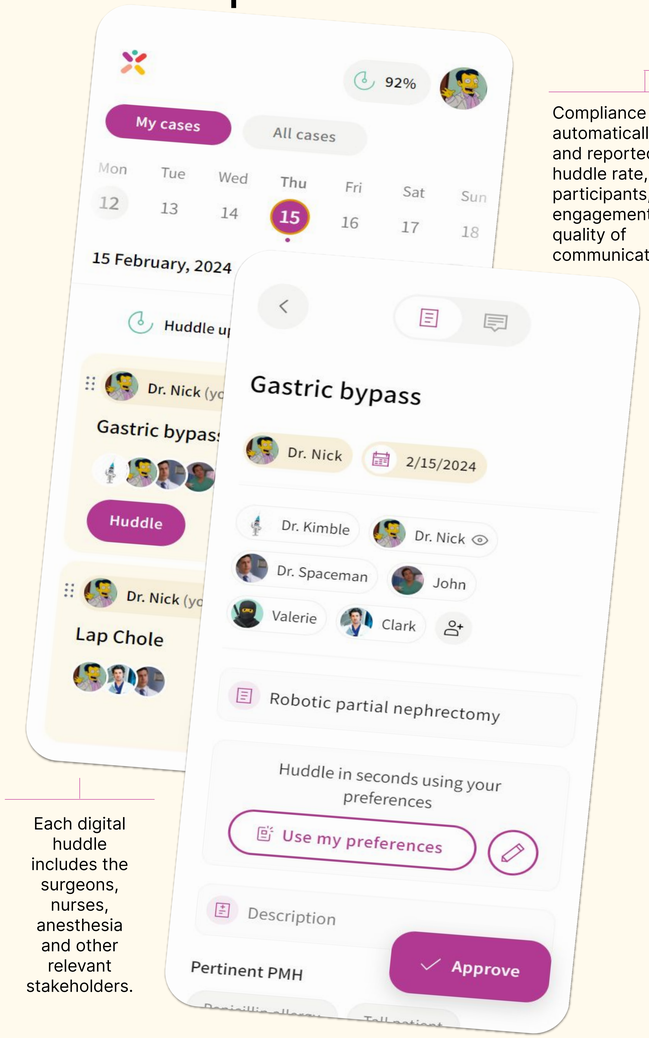
Digital Huddles: Can AI Help Make the Right Way the Easy Way

INTRODUCTION

In September 2023, the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology presented the 'Transforming Patient Safety' report to President Joe Biden, emphasizing the need for nationwide adoption of evidence-based practices to enhance patient safety. Despite their benefits, many such practices are rejected by healthcare teams since they are perceived as burdensome. One such practice is the preoperative huddle.

METHOD

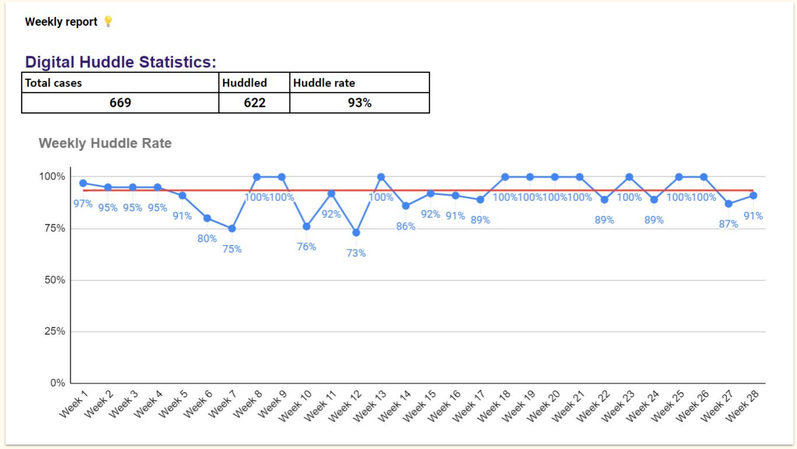
An innovative cloud software, leveraging artificial intelligence, extensive data analysis, asynchronous components, and gamification, has been designed to address the challenges of preoperative huddles. It integrates with the surgical schedule, sending reminders to surgeons to huddle a day before procedures. The software then generates a concise, procedure-specific preoperative huddle, tailored to the surgeon's preferences and team dynamics. This one-minute huddle focuses on critical topics such as patient positioning, anesthesia considerations, and equipment requirements. It also provides an open platform where any team member can raise questions or concerns within a shared space. Through a standardized asynchronous communication approach, the software ensures that the entire team remains continuously synchronized, fostering a shared mental model.



Each digital huddle includes the surgeons, nurses, anesthesia and other relevant stakeholders.

The 1-minute digital huddle is generated per procedure and surgeon, focusing on critical topics such as patient positioning, anesthesia considerations and equipment.

Compliance data is automatically collected and reported weekly: huddle rate, participants, times, engagement rates and quality of communication.



RESULTS

The implementation of digital preoperative huddles streamlines team alignment, significantly reducing the risks associated with miscommunication and procedural inconsistencies. The technology ensures that all team members are well-informed and adhere to the current evidence-based practices, resulting in decreased procedural changes, improved case duration estimates, cost savings, and enhanced team engagement and psychological safety.

CONCLUSIONS

The adoption of digital preoperative huddles through cloud software offers an accessible and cost-effective means to standardize safety and efficiency best practices in surgical procedures, without burdening clinicians. The success of digital huddles underscores the potential of this technology to enhance patient safety and streamline surgical operations. By simplifying the adoption of proven perioperative best practices, this innovative approach makes the right way the easy way for surgical teams.

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