

The Effect of an Electronic “Nudge” to Encourage Physician Charting of Replacement Neuraxial Catheters in Obstetric Patients

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Background

- Monitoring the rate of failed neuraxial blocks in obstetric patients is considered a marker of quality care
- Labor neuraxial epidural failure rates are ~ 1.6-15.4%
- “Nudge” reminders from EMR alerts have been used to influence human behavior and encourage adherence to guidelines, standard of care and quality assurance efforts

Aim

- We hypothesized that the introduction of an EMR “nudge” would improve the documentation of replaced labor neuraxial epidural catheters by anesthesiologists at our institution.

Methods

- If 2 or more neuraxial catheter placement procedure notes were detected, an electronic nudge notified the clinician via EMR alert to provide additional documentation for our institution’s “failed neuraxial catheter database
- We continually assessed the rate of “failed block charting” before and after implementation of the nudge in Oct 2019 with data spanning Jan 2019 to Dec 2020.

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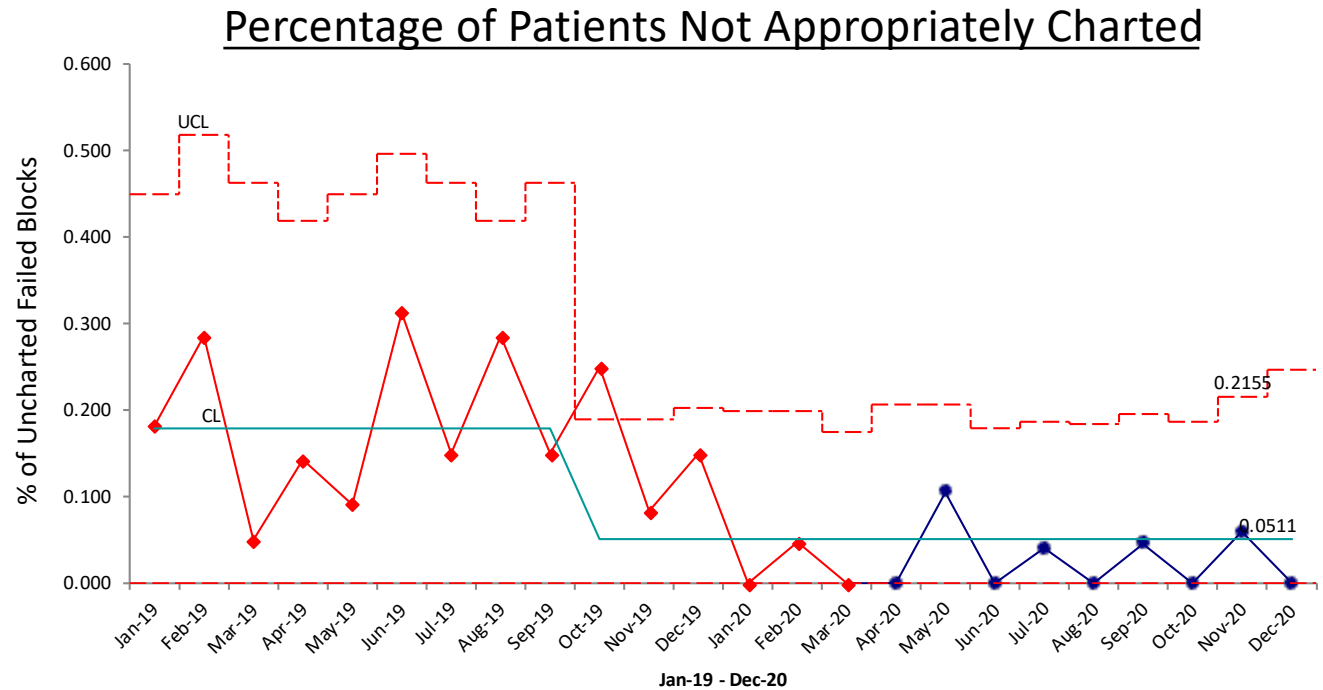
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Results

- 523 charts had more than one neuraxial procedure note from Jan 2019 to Dec 2020
- Prior to the nudge in Oct 2019, the rate of uncharted replaced block was 18.2%, and after the intervention, the rate was 5.2% ($p = 0.003$, 95% CI: 0.054-0.209).



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Conclusions

- An EMR based nudge improved adherence with quality metric monitoring of neuraxial block failure in obstetric patients

References:

- 1) Anaesthesia. 2020;75:617–625
- 2) IJOA. 2018;34:28–36
- 3) J Eval Clin Pract. 2021;27:175–192