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### Fall Prevention Utilizing Remote Safety Monitoring

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# Fall Prevention Utilizing Remote Safety Monitoring

## BACKGROUND

- Preventing patient falls is a challenge with reported rates of falls ranging from 1.3 to 8.9 per 1000 bed-days (Spoelstra, Given, & Given, 2012).
- In the acute care setting, up to 15% of falls result in injury. There are significant financial costs associated with falls as well as psychosocial trauma and increased mortality in older adults (Graham, 2012).
- Hospitals have instituted numerous fall prevention tactics with varying effectiveness including fall risk identification scales, rounding, bed/chair/toilet alarms, and 1: 1 safety attendants (Ang, Mordiffi, & Wong, 2011).

## PURPOSE

- The aim of this project was to reduce falls and improve both patient and staff safety.
- An additional objective was the reduction of 1:1 safety attendants. Safety attendants are costly and present a challenge to hospitals striving to meet productivity benchmarks.



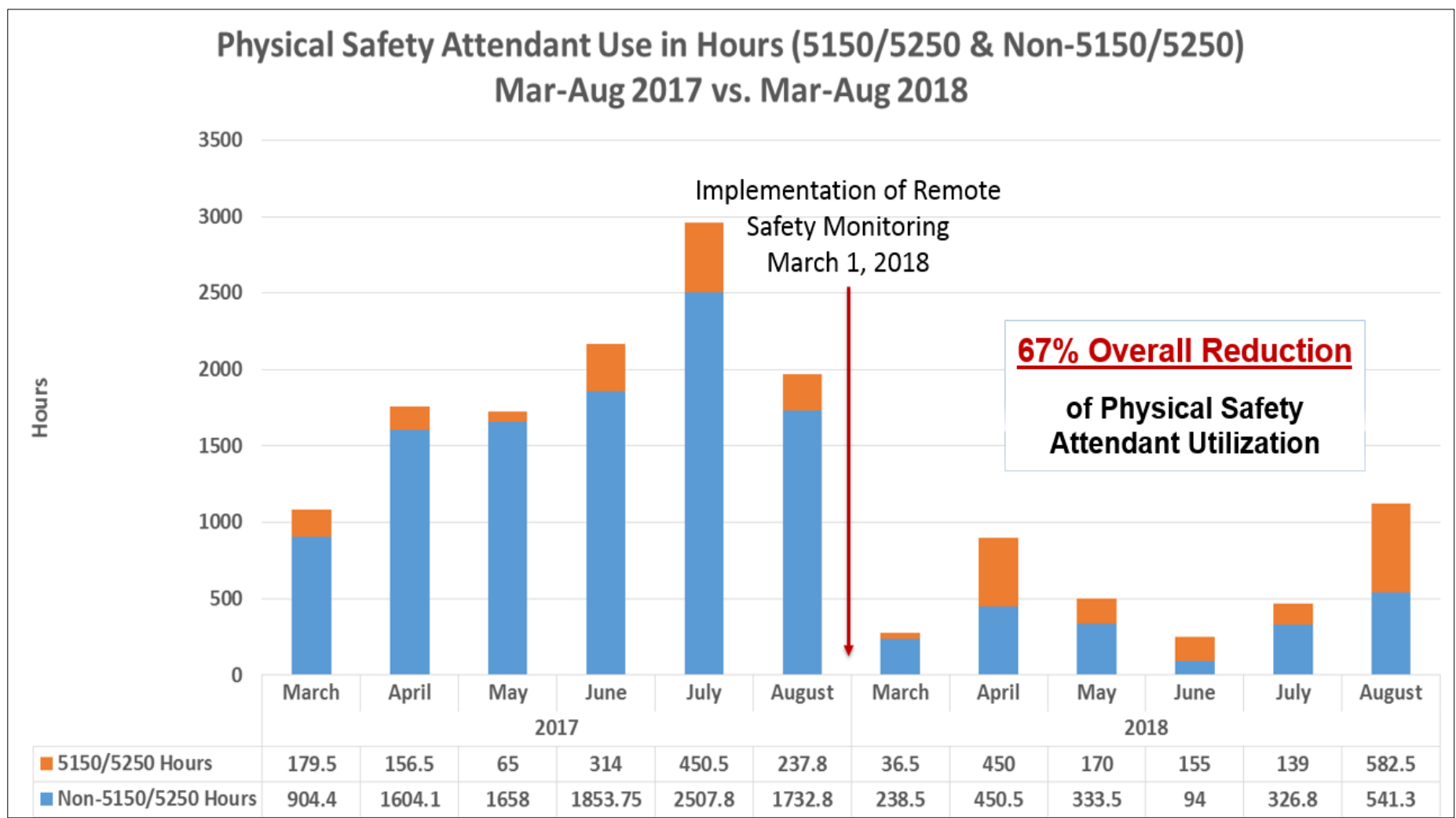
## REFERENCES

Available upon request [Gemma.Seidl@stjoe.org](mailto:Gemma.Seidl@stjoe.org)

## METHODS

- Remote safety monitoring (RSM) can prove to be an effective tool for prevention of patient falls, tampering with life supporting devices, as well as adding an extra layer of protection for healthcare providers caring for unpredictable/violent patients.
- Twelve RSM cameras were purchased initially.
- Initiative was spread to include a hub/spoke model monitoring five area hospitals and 48 cameras.
- A remote safety attendant (RSA) room was created, staff were cross-trained, and hospital-wide education was provided.
- The monitor can display multiple video feeds from different patient rooms, thereby allowing the RSA to monitor several patients/hospitals at one time.
- The RSM device is equipped with a video camera and the RSA can communicate with the patient in several languages via two-way audio to redirect inappropriate or unsafe behaviors.

## RESULTS – Fall / Cost Saving Data



## RESULTS – Fall / Cost Saving Data (continued)

Unit/Patient Remote Monitoring Utilization All Units March to August 2018				
Month	# Patients	Event Duration (days)	Event Duration (hrs)	Cost Savings
Mar-18	71	173.84	4172.15	\$ 91,787.27
Apr-18	69	153.27	3678.54	\$ 80,927.86
May-18	84	175.54	4213.00	\$ 92,686.06
Jun-18	80	228.88	5493.09	\$ 120,847.93
Jul-18	75	201.00	4819.00	\$ 106,018.00
Aug-18	66	160.00	3831.00	\$ 84,282.00
TOTAL COST SAVED*				\$ 576,549.11

\*Based on average rate of physical safety attendant \$22/hour



## CONCLUSIONS

- RSM improves patient safety and allows staff to focus more on treating health issues, while the RSA acts as a “second set of eyes” to observe for potential harm.
- One patient family reported, “Knowing that the camera was on him and somebody was observing him, I went home and had a peaceful night’s sleep. I slept from seven to four in the morning for the first time ever.”