

An Evidence-Based Quality Improvement Project to Decrease Fall Rates on Oncology

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Background

- Hospital patients receiving cancer treatments have increased risk for falls
- Knowing patient's level of mobility and early ambulation can decrease fall risk
- Fall prevention is a vital nursing intervention

Purpose

- To decrease the number of patient falls within Oncology
- To increase communication between RNs and NAs related to patient mobility
- To document activity and highest level of mobility for improving fall awareness

Methods

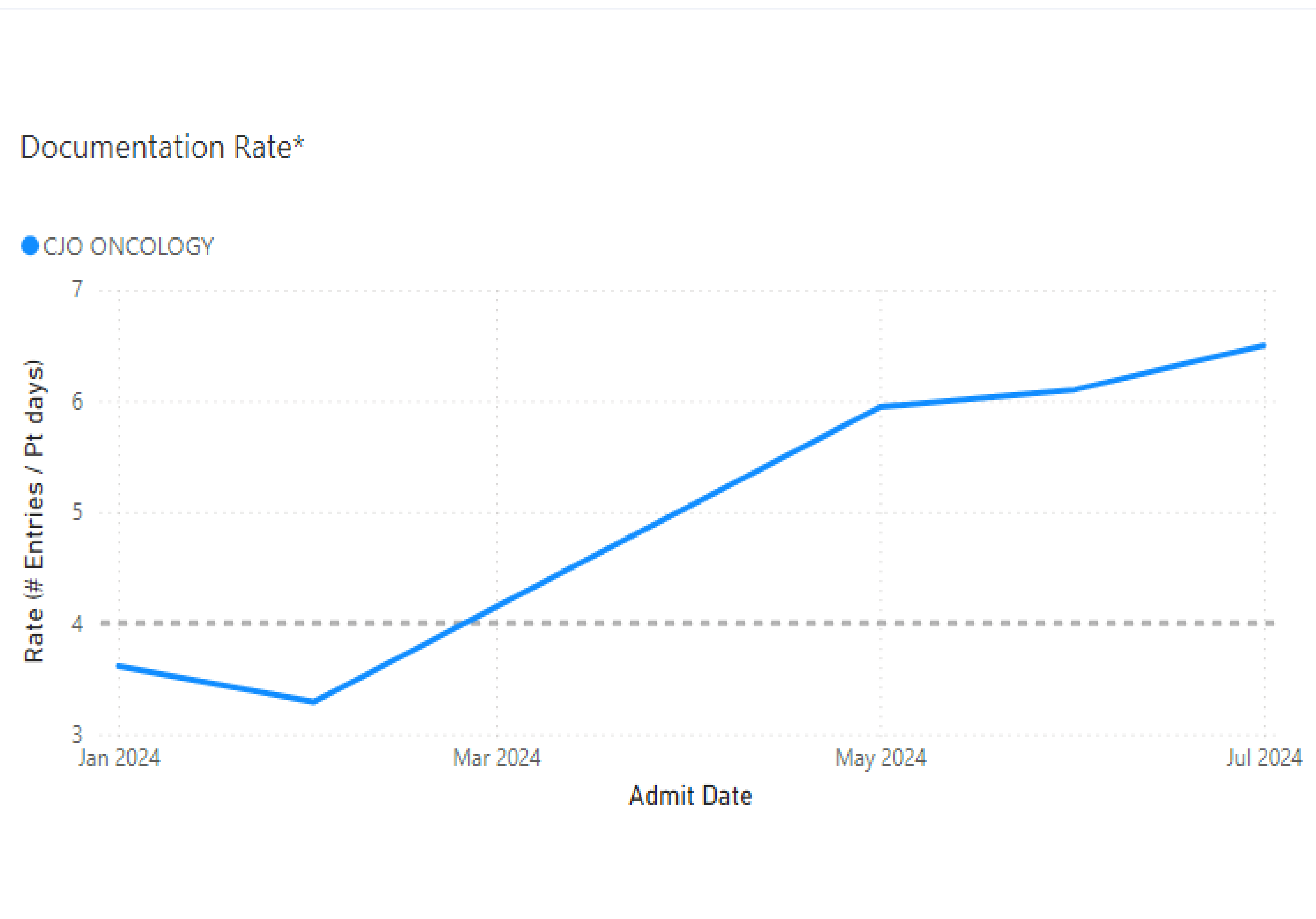
- One-to-One guidance and written training were done with RNs and NAs
- Documentation using the Johns Hopkins scoring tool was used
- A dashboard audited the documentation

Results

- Documentation of the Johns Hopkins scoring tool was significantly increased
- Actual number of falls on Oncology Unit remained the same

Discussion

- This project did not affect the number of falls for cancer patients
- In 2023, the Oncology Unit recorded 10 falls total
- In 2024, the Oncology Unit recorded 8 falls total through June 30th. At this rate we are on track to be higher than last year



Implications for Practice

A department fall prevention plan including a fall education intervention and audit documentation alone did not impact outcomes. Exploration of additional EBP fall prevention interventions in addition to education may be more impactful.