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# Clinical Nurse Leader Role Demonstrates Positive Impact on Patient Outcomes

# What is a Clinical Nurse Leader?



- Developed after IOM's report, *To Err Is Human: Building a Safer Health System*
- 1<sup>st</sup> new nursing role in over 40 years
- Master's-prepared RN *Advanced Generalist*
  - Leadership
  - Teamwork
  - Quality
  - Informatics
  - Metrics



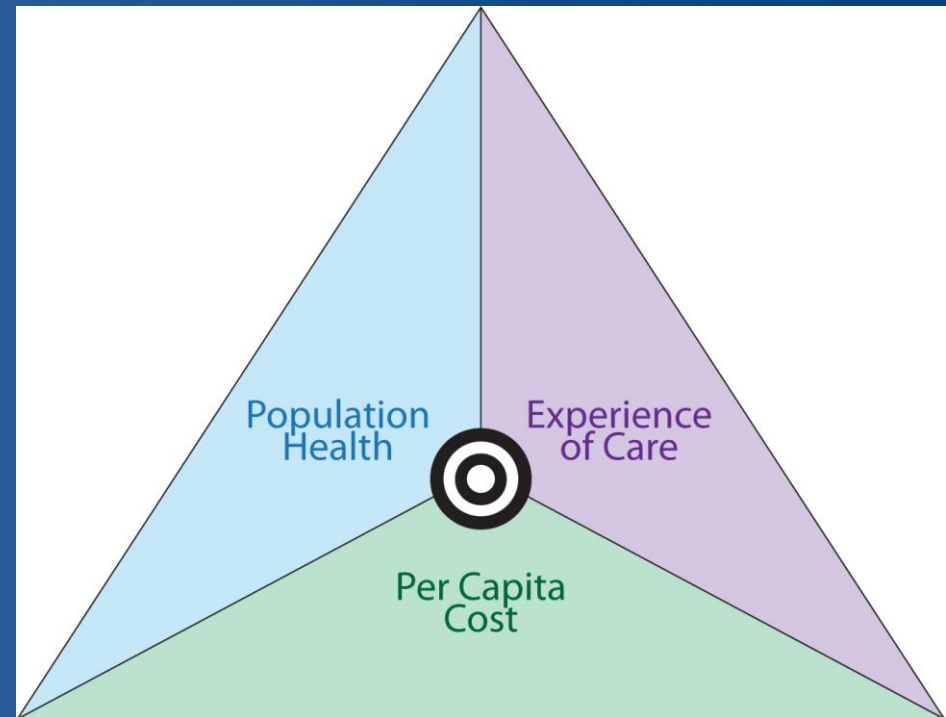
# Functions of a Clinical Nurse Leader

Clinician

Frontline leader

- Clinical care coordination
- Mentor/Educator
- EBP/Outcomes
- Quality Improvement
- Information Technology

## Triple Aim



# The CNL role at ACH- How it began

- 2012—The business case and pilot position for a Neuroscience CNL
- 2013—4 CNL positions approved
  - Neuroscience
  - Pulmonary
  - Cardiac
  - Bone Marrow Transplant
    - *Current position available*



# The CNL role at ACH

## How it began

### Framing our first year and developing our roles

- Initial needs assessment in each department
- Strategies to decrease patient care days
- Medications in hand at discharge
- Follow up appointments made prior to discharge
- Track decrease missed school and work days



# CNL Discovery



Unit assessments revealed fragmented education and discharge processes and ineffective communication among service lines leading to an increase in patient care days

# CNL Goal and Tactics



## Decrease patient care days

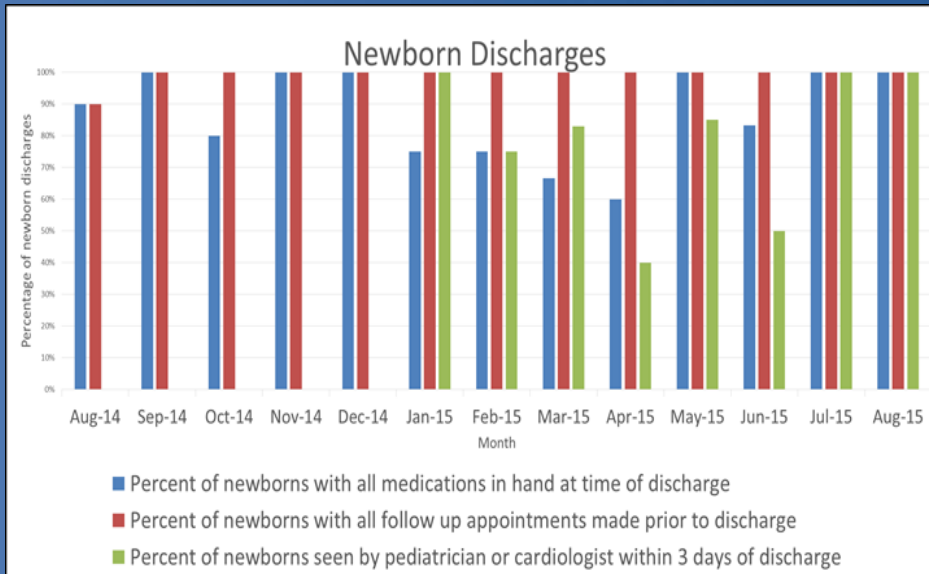
- Standardized discharge process and education
- Improve communication across all service lines
- Bridging gaps between inpatient and ambulatory care



# Cardiac CNL Results/Methods

## Methods

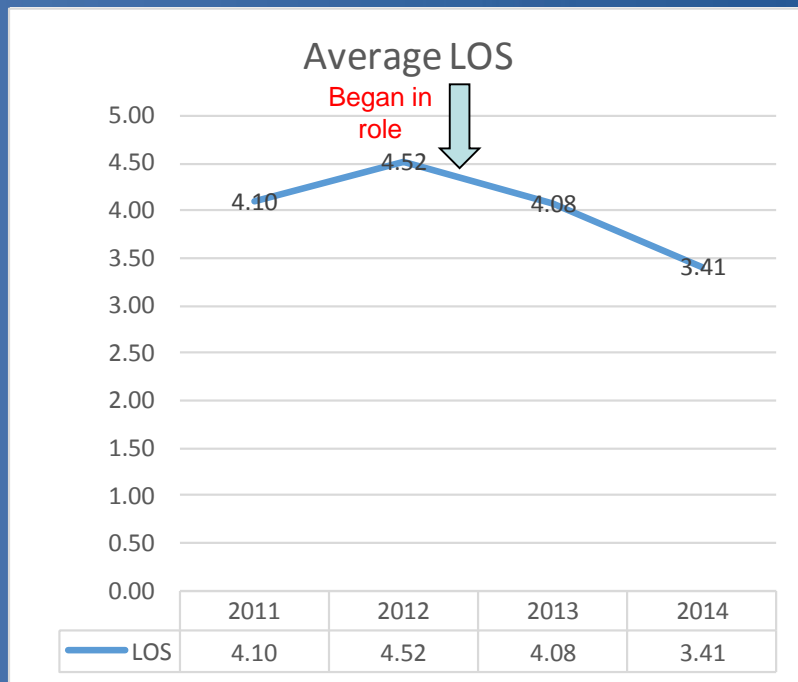
- Meet with families prior to admission
- Daily educational and discharge assessment with multidisciplinary team
- One-on-one education with families
- A defined discharge medication process
- Staff mentorship for discharge teaching
- Detailed discharge checklist in EMR
- Follow up phone calls





# Neuroscience CNL Results/Methods

## Methods



- CNL participation in rounds
- BRAIN education series
- Ketogenic Diet Notification
- EEG Pressure Ulcer prevention
- Order set adjustments based on surgical procedure
- Discharge instruction template based on surgical procedure or diagnosis
- Ventricular shunt protocol
- Follow-up phone calls

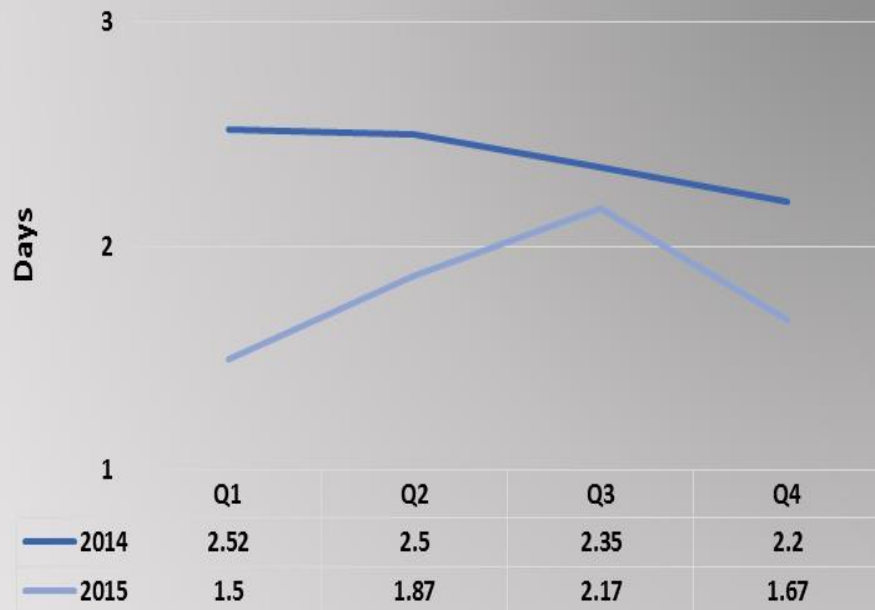
# Pulmonary CNL Results/Methods



## Methods

- Multidisciplinary team approach used to refine asthma care path
- Began monitoring patient care days for asthma patients in the PICU
- Providers educated on Pediatric Asthma Score and how it is used to drive the asthma care path
- Respiratory Therapist communicates change in patient status to providers
- Respiratory Therapist progresses patient through care path

PICU LENGTH OF STAY



# All Children's Hospital CNL's



# References



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- Bender, M., Connelly, C., & Brown, C., (2013). Interdisciplinary collaboration: the role of the clinical nurse leader. *Journal of Nursing Management*, 21, 165-174