

## Problem/Background

Medical-Telemetry (D5) leadership prepared staff for intermediate (IMCU) level of care patient admissions beginning October, 2017. Since then, Salem Hospital clinical experts ensured new skills met a need for further broadening of patient demographics. Given that diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) patients are often admitted at the IMCU level, it seemed appropriate to add this patient population to D5. A multidisciplinary team designed an education delivery plan that would establish competency for D5 nurses, empowering them to successfully care for the DKA patient population.

## What should be happening?

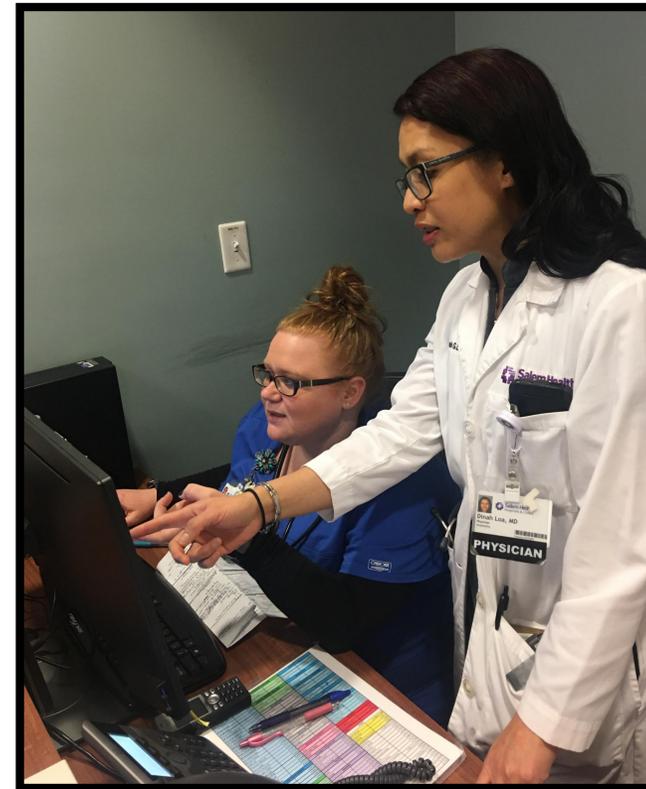
- 100% of D5 RNs should have documented competency utilizing the Salem Hospital DKA protocol

## What's actually Happening?

- 0% of D5 RNs have documented competency utilizing the Salem Hospital DKA protocol

## Hypothesis/Purpose

- IF we close the educational gap by providing education to all 77 RNs on D5
- THEN D5 RNs will be empowered to successfully care for DKA patients



## Performance Improvement/EBP Steps

- Expert consultants shared evidence-based practice
- Professional Development Specialist delivered HealthStream module for clinical nurses
- Clinical nurses participated in validation of competency
- Charge RNs received screening tool for DKA patients
- Knowledge disseminated directly to unit and SharePoint site

## Outcomes

- By March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, 96% of RNs on D5 successfully completed the competency
- DKA was live on D5 on the April 1 goal day. The team lead informed Bed Control that D5 was equipped to admit DKA patients to their unit
- D5 admitted 6 DKA patients throughout the first two weeks of April

## Conclusions of Project

- Increases knowledge of D5 staff
- Supports the continued "upskilling" of D5 staff
- Sets the Standard of Care for DKA admission on D5
- Has the potential to prevent fewer transfers off IMCU (Building A) to accommodate the DKA patient