

NIMU TRIGGER PROGRAM

Jacqueline Bentick, RN, Clinical Advisor Neuroscience and Surgical Critical Care

TAP TO GO BACK
TO KIOSK MENU

Introduction/Problem

For many years the hospital has had a trigger system program in effect to respond to changing patient conditions that require urgent attention. In recent months, it became evident that we as an intermediate care unit did not fall under the medical-surgical trigger criteria due to our patient acuity level and that we would need a slightly different approach. After a debriefing with our Attending providers and clinicians, it was evident that Attending providers lacked knowledge of pertinent clinical changes and there was a disparity in documentation to the actual events that occurred by the clinician – both that could result in poor patient outcomes

Aim/Goal

The goal is to standardize the process of patient triggers in the NIMU; to be-in-line with patient triggers throughout the medical center by enhancing the process of communication and documentation between Attending providers and clinicians caring for patients in the NIMU.

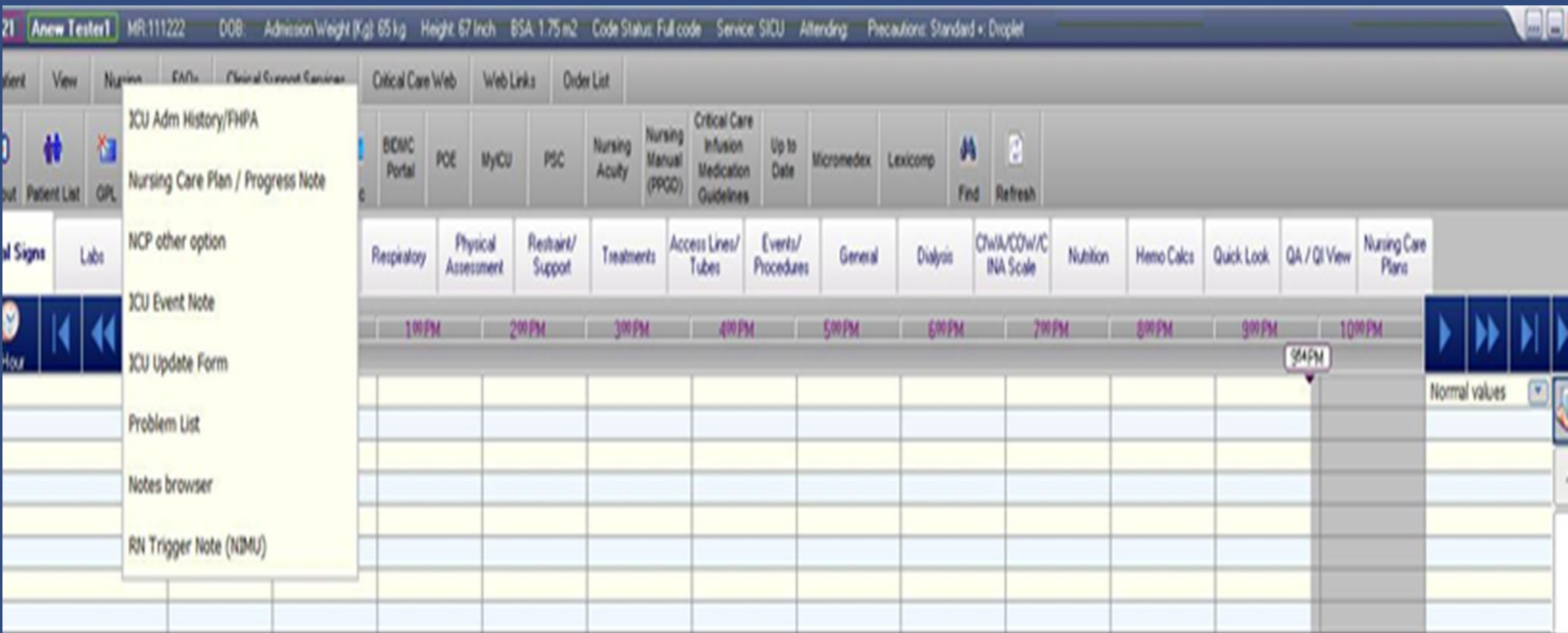
The Team

- Jacqueline Bentick RN Clinical Advisor for Neuroscience and Surgical Intensive Care Unit
- Tricia Bourie, MS, RN, Program Director, Nursing Informatics
- Michael J. Carr MSN, ACNP-BC, GNP-BC, Clinical Manager Division of Neurosurgery
- Michael Cocchi, MD, Director Critical Care Quality, Silverman Institute for Health Care Quality & Safety
- Laura Ritter Cox, MSN, RN, BC, Critical Care Information System (MetaVision®) Application Analyst
- Gina Gleason McDonough BSN, RN Clinical Nurse for Neuro Intermediate Care Unit
- Vasileios-Arsenios Lioutas, MD, Department of Neurology, Division of Cerebrovascular Diseases
- Laura MacAdam, BSN, RN, Clinical Nurse for the Neuro Intermediate Care Unit
- Theresa Hassan, BSN, RN Clinical Nurse for the Neuro Intermediate Care Unit
- Susan Herman, MD, Department of Neurology, Division of Epilepsy
- Suzanne Joyner MSN, RN, Nursing Director for Neuroscience and Surgical Intensive Care
- Anna Sheehan BSN, RN, SCR N Clinical Nurse for Neuro Intermediate Care Unit
- Lauren Sullivan BSN, RN, CNRN, SCR N Unit Based Educator for the Neuro Intermediate Care
- Martina Stippler, MD, Departement of Surgery, Division of Neurosurgery

The Interventions

Over the past several months our Neuroscience Intermediate Leadership team meet and worked on creating the NIMU trigger program that would improve the communication gap between Attending providers and clinicians and standardize the process of documentation of pertinent clinical changes with their patients. This NIMU trigger program would clearly outline and feature patient criteria and include a process of documentation that would close the loop of communication and document a clear plan of care for the patient.

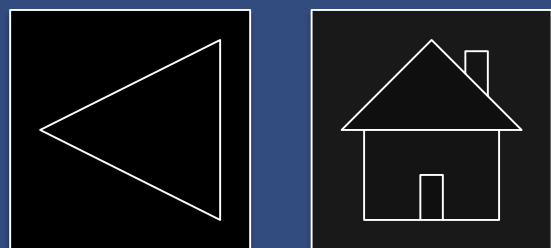
Results/Progress to Date



When a patient triggers, the nurse will page the primary team on call provider (APP / Resident) with patient name / message they are triggering and reason. Nurse will time stamp the event with a “diamond” in Metavision under the events tab stating “Trigger Initiated” and alert the provider that “the patient is triggering” for stated criteria

For more information, contact:

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More Results/Progress to Date

NIMU Trigger Criteria

- Marked Nursing concern
- Respiratory Insufficiency
- New onset Agitation / Anxiety
- Hemodynamic Instability
- EVD / Lumbar Drain Disconnection or Dislodgement

The patient triggered for the above NIMU trigger criteria

APP / MD responds in a timely manner to NIMU trigger. APP/MD evaluates the patient with nursing and communicates with Attending Physician. Both then create plan and document intervention to NIMU trigger note in OMR under a MACRO note titled NIMU trigger note.

Lessons Learned

- Based on NIMU case reviews, code debriefs, and evidenced based practice we have learned that trigger programs have been shown to decrease poor patient outcomes and increase communication between covering providers.

Next Steps

- Continue to educate staff on New NIMU Trigger Program
- Complete badge cards outlining NIMU Trigger Program
- Audit NIMU Triggers and evaluate patient outcomes

Nursing completes NIMU Trigger note in Metavision

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