Clinical Research Inpatient Nursing Optimization – Post Trial Activation



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Background

Moffitt Cancer Center's inpatient nursing units routinely integrate clinical trial procedures with standard patient care. However, inconsistent communication, documentation, and coordination have led to inefficiencies. To address this, the Clinical Trials Office (CTO) partnered with inpatient (IP) nursing leadership and the Process Excellence (PEx) Department to identify workflow gaps, standardize processes, and strengthen research integration. The goal: improve efficiency, protocol compliance, patient safety, and collaboration across teams.



Solutions and Methods

Kaizen Event for Workflow Standardization

- Cross-functional teams mapped current workflows, identified inefficiencies, and co-developed standardization strategies.
- Clear roles and responsibilities were established to support smooth handoffs and shared accountability.

Standardization of Communication and Documentation

- Created a CRC-to-Inpatient (IP) Checklist for structured handoffs.
- Standardized documentation processes for trial-related care.
- Launched a centralized SharePoint site for trial protocols, checklists, and training.

Research Kit and Medication Handling

- Improved kit storage and management protocols for compliance and accessibility.
- Installed secure cabinets for investigational products in inpatient units.

Deviation Tracking and Process Monitoring

- Analyzed deviation data to identify trends and pain points.
- Developed a real-time dashboard to track inpatient research processes and compliance.

HUC & PASC: Comparisons

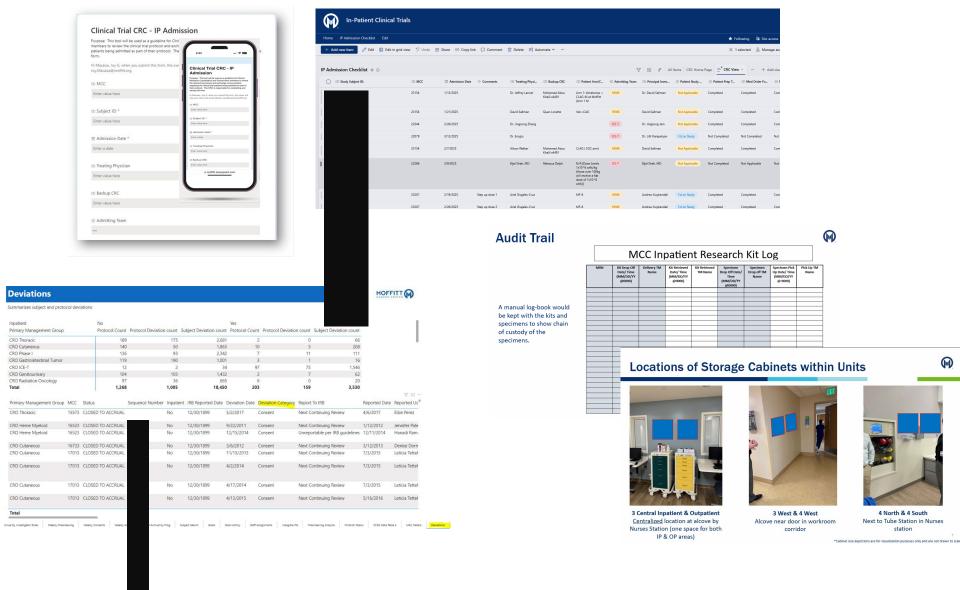
Goals

- Standardize inpatient workflows to align clinical research with routine care.
- Improve coordination between nursing and research teams to ensure quality care and protocol adherence.
- Develop consistent communication and documentation tools to reduce variability and improve transparency.
- Leverage deviation tracking to identify trends, address root causes, and implement corrective actions.



Outcomes

- A unified inpatient workflow minimized variation in trial procedures. The CRC/IP checklist improved handoffs and reduced miscommunication.
- Standardized documentation and email templates reduced redundancies; the SharePoint site improved access to care-critical resources.
- Deviation tracking supported faster issue resolution and improved protocol compliance
- Research kits were more accessible and better maintained, increasing readiness.
- Pilot program launched in March 2025, with 46 trial patients, being monitored to assess its impact on team communication and coordination.



Refinements and Next Steps

- Expand the standardized workflow model to surgical inpatient units.
- Leverage the deviation dashboard to set target thresholds and develop program-based CAPAs (Corrective and Preventive Actions).