## Virtual Nurse Program

Ochsner Medical Center – Kenner

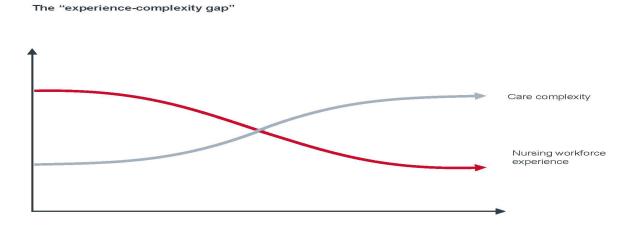
Ruth Sagastume, MSN, RN, CPHQ Chief Nursing Officer



# Goals of the Virtual Nurse Program

- The Virtual Nurse Program is an innovative staffing model focused on patient centered care, and safe distribution of workload across an integrated team of virtual and bedside nursing personnel.
- The program provides 24-hour Virtual Nursing support to the patient care team, including:
  - clinical expertise for early intervention
  - admission and discharge processes
  - patient and family education
  - coordination of care across disciplines to facilitate communication and patient outcomes.

## **Experience Complexity Gap**



- Virtual Nurses support less experienced nurses at the bedside
- Model allows keeps tenured nurses in the workforce longer (~18 currently)

### Roles and Responsibilities in Virtual Nurse Care Model

#### Virtual Nurse:

- Admissions Documentation
- Care Plan
- Discharge Education
- Transfer Documentation
- Early detection for deterioration
- Proactive Rounding
- Real-time quality surveillance (nights)
- Code Blue/Rapid Response documentation
- 24-hour chart checks

- Educate patients
- Round on patients
- Monitor patients
- Document Care
- •Respond to patient/family questions
- •Collaborate with interprofessional care team

#### Bedside Care Team:

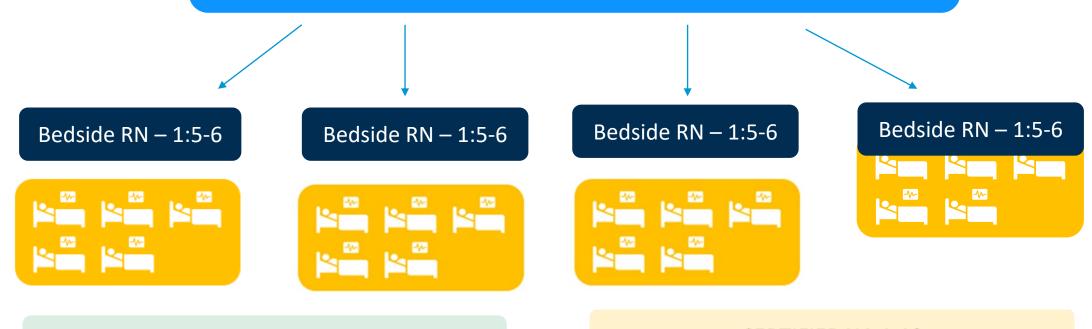
- Physical assessments
- Bedside handoff
- Hourly Purposeful and Safety Rounds
- Direct patient care (med administration, treatments, care plan)
- Manage discharge process
- All "hands-on" care

#### Operations Coordinator/Charge Nurse

#### **UNIT ASSISTANT**

#### Virtual Nurse 1:20

Monitors multiple patient metrics including MEWs, AI Alerts, Labs, VS, Intake/Output, Incoming Orders, Medication changes. Patients may also be supported by Avasys camera Telesitter monitoring where indicated for fall prevention.



CERTIFIED NA 1:10

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**NON-CERTIFIED** 

#### The Value of Virtual Nurse Investment



Patient Safety



Higher Standardized Quality



Lower Mortality Rate



More Clinical Collaboration



Less Clinical Burnout



**Cost Savings** 

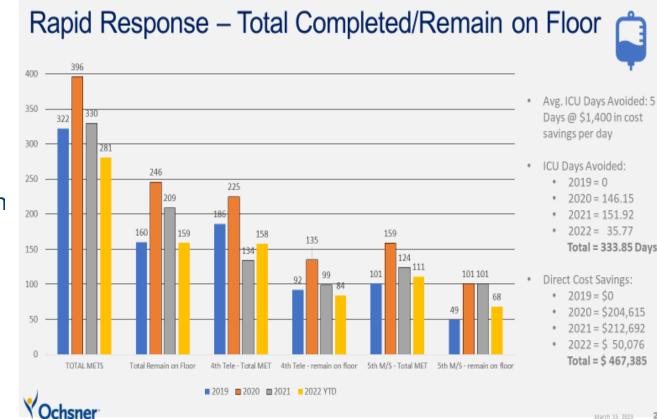


Improvement and Expansion Projects

## **Patient Safety**



- Mews & Al Alerts
  - Implemented Jan 2021
  - >300 alerts with 98% response
- Timeout Documentation
  - 100% completion by VN
- Proactive Rounds
  - >60% of rapid response activations remain on floor vs transfer to ICU
  - Avg. ICU Days Avoided: 5 days @ \$1,400 savings/day
  - ICU Days Avoided
    - 2020: 146.15 days = \$204,615
    - 2021: 151.92 days = \$212,692
    - 2022: 35.77 days = \$ 50,076
    - Total: 333.85 days = \$467,385



## **Standardized Quality**

## **Clinical Collaboration**

- Code Blue and Rapid Response Documentation
- Average 9 admits and 12 discharges per day
- Standardized admission and discharge documentation
  - 99% of admission documentation
  - 92% of care plan documentation
- Procedural Time outs
  - Infection Prevention
  - Bedside procedures
  - Education and documentation of central line placement

100% procedural documentation



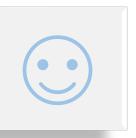
- Virtual Hospital Medicine Access
- Remote Nurse Practitioner Support for Night Shift
- Neurovascular Consults
- Pharmacy Medication Reconciliation
- Case Management
- Virtual Nurse/Bedside Nurse Staffing Model





"...extremely helpful in educating patients before during and after central line placement"

#### **Reduced Clinical Burnout**

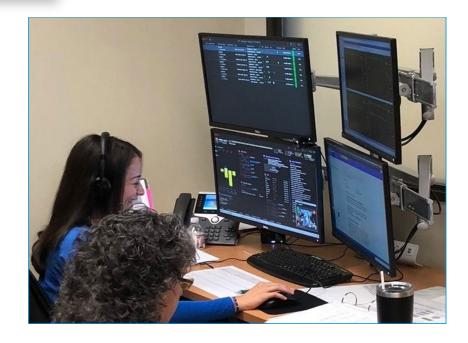


#### Use of the Virtual Nurse allows:

- Patients
  - 24hr support and visualization
  - Human connection
- Bedside RN
  - Admit and discharge documentation support
  - Less time at the computer
  - Less friction w/physicians at the bedside, second set of eyes
- Clinical support for new nurses, especially for night shift



"..... real time Code blue documentation allows the nurses time to care for the patient"



## **Virtual Nursing Workgroup Priorities**



#### Expand eVIP Program

- Pilotexpansion of eVIP to WB
  - Utilize existing Kenner model
  - Staffw/WB RNs
  - Location
     — Elmwood bunker
- Spread and scale to hospitals w/existing technology
  - St. Charles
  - St. Bernard
  - Baptist
- Roll out optimizationwork once finalizedand tested at Kenner

#### Optimize Virtual Nurse Work

- Optimization of eVIP RN work
  - Create efficiencies w/in
    Virtual Nurse workflows
    - Discharge optimization
    - Sepsis
       Surveillance
    - Deterioration alerts
  - Allow for increased capacity
    - Change VNratio
    - Increase responsibilitis

## Align All Other Virtual Nursing Work

- elCU Optimization
  - Phillipsvs. Epic
  - Improved care team involvement
  - Code Blue Supportin wired rooms not in ICU
  - Procedural support in wired rooms not in ICU;
- Sepsis Surveillance
- Rapid Response



## Summary

- Innovative staffing model as an integrated patient care team
- Focus: 1) Early Recognition
  - 2) Admit/Discharge Process
  - 3) Patient/Family Education
- Results: 1) Patient Quality WINS
  - 2) Nursing Turnover
  - 3) Bed Capacity/Nurse to Patient Ratios
- **Updates:** 1) Proactive Round
  - 2) Program Spread/Scale
  - 3) Program Optimization
  - 4) Adjunct Pilots