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Improving NICU referrals to the Missouri Early Intervention Program (First Steps)

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Quality Improvement Abstract Title

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IRB Number (if applicable):

Describe role of Submitting/Presenting Trainee in this project (limit 150 words):

Chart review, implementation of changes, and follow up on results performed by trainee.

Problem Statement/Question, Background/Project Intent (Aim Statement), Methods (include PDSA cycles), Results, Conclusions limited to 500 words

Problem Statement/Question:

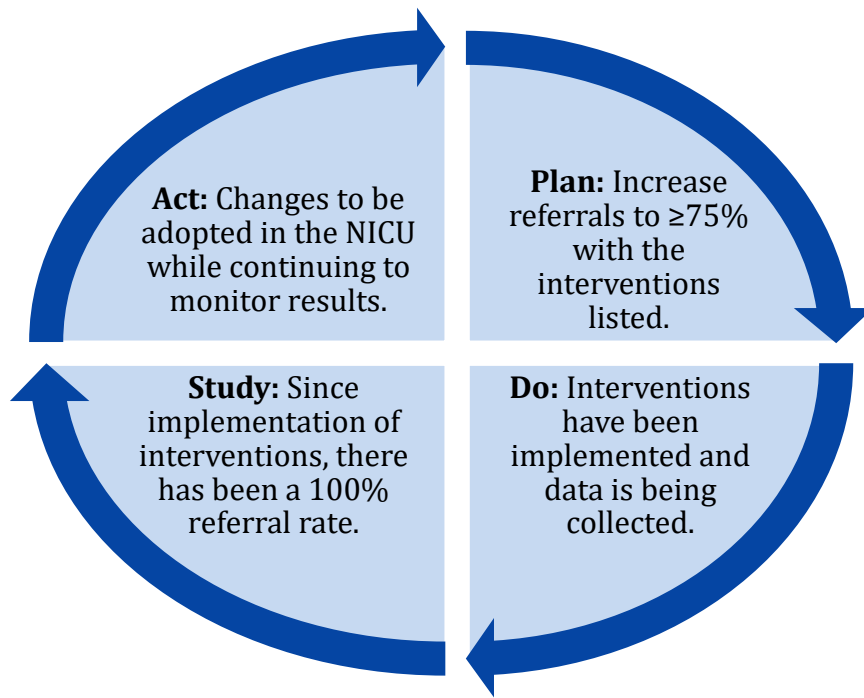
First Steps is the statewide early intervention program in Missouri. This program is federally mandated to assist children with delays in all areas of development between the ages of 0-3 years. There are specific eligibility criteria for patient's to qualify. Some patients are eligible based on criteria identified in the NICU. Review of referrals from the Truman NICU revealed that only 24% of eligible patients were being referred.

Background/Project Intent (Aim Statement):

To increase the number of appropriate referrals from the Truman NICU to the First Steps Program. Increase resident discussion and awareness of early intervention referrals during discharge.

Methods (include PDSA cycles):

Include First Steps information as part of the monthly resident orientation. Include referral to First Steps as part of the resident discharge checklist. Display a sign of criteria in the physician/NP work area.



Results:

In review of the result, there has been a 100% referral rate since March, 2018, when the intervention was implemented.

Conclusions:

The significant improvement in the referral rates to First Steps for eligible patients indicates that the interventions have been successful and above the initial goal of 75%. No changes to the intervention have been made since initial implementation. Further data collection is being performed to continue to monitor the impact of the intervention.