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

Luke Prest

*Children's Mercy Hospital*, lprest@cmh.edu

Lauren Fenstermann

*Children's Mercy Hospital*, lfenstermann@cmh.edu

Ayman Khmour

*Children's Mercy Hospital*, akhmour@cmh.edu

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Prest, Luke; Fenstermann, Lauren; Khmour, Ayman

Children's Mercy Kansas City, Kansas City, Mo.  
 Truman Medical Center, Kansas City, MO

## Background

- First Steps is the statewide early intervention program in Missouri.
- 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.

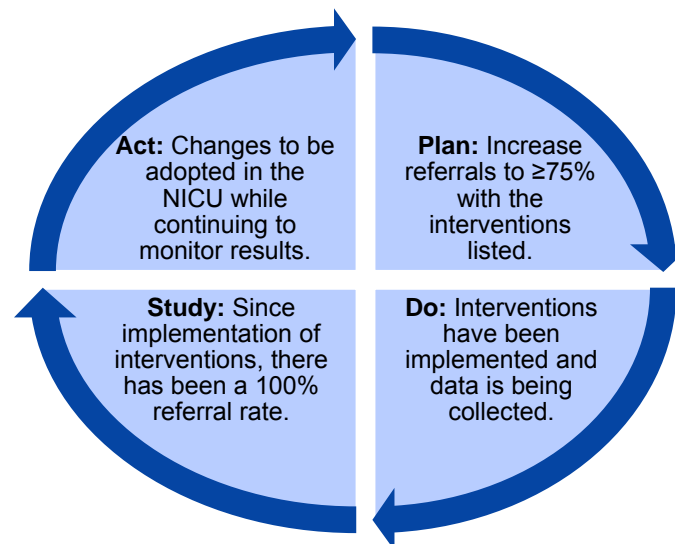
## Criteria

Patients born less than 1,500 grams with at least one of the following:

- APGAR  $\leq 6$  at 5 minutes.
- Intraventricular hemorrhage (Grade II, III, or IV).
- Any positive pressure ventilation greater than 48 hours.
- Resuscitation/code-event requiring chest compressions.

## Aim

- 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.



## Intervention

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

## Results

Percent of Referrals Made for Eligible Patients  
 2016-Present

