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# National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS) and Tissue Plasminogen (tPA) Education for all Critical Care Nurses

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# National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS) and Tissue Plasminogen (tPA) Education for all Critical Care Nurses

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## Background

- Six area hospitals depend on the advanced services at Baptist Hospital for Stroke Care
- In November of 2014, Baptist Hospital became the only Advanced Comprehensive Stroke Certified Center located in Miami, Florida
- As the hospital has seen an influx of patients diagnosed with Stroke, the increase of admissions of patients with Stroke has overflowed from the designated Neuroscience Critical Care unit into the Medical/Surgical Critical Care units
- Out of 110 Critical Care nurses in the Critical Care unit, 55 nurses are dedicated Core Neuroscience Nurses
- There was a need for more dedicated Core Neuroscience Nurses educated and trained to take care of patients with Stroke

## Purpose

- Stroke Education includes the National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS) and Tissue Plasminogen (tPA) with yearly renewal
- The purpose of this initiative is to provide NIHSS and tPA education for all Baptist Hospital Critical Care Nurses to be readily available to accept Stroke patients in any Critical Care unit.

## Methods

- Core Neuroscience Nurses are required to complete 8 hours of Stroke Education each year to satisfy The Joint Commission on Healthcare Organization requirements as an Advanced Comprehensive Stroke Certified Center
- All 110 staff nurses were assigned the NIHSS and tPA education, modules, and exam as online learning
- Weekly audits are performed to ensure compliance with the NIHSS and re-education is provided when needed

## Results

- All staff nurses have received education on the NIHSS and tPA modules which has resulted in readiness to accept Stroke patients in any unit
- Education remains ongoing with Neuroscience order sets, NIHSS documentation, and NIHSS compliance
- The completion rate with the NIHSS and tPA education is 100%
- NIHSS at Admission to Critical Care by the RN went from 48% compliance in Fiscal Year 2014 to 86% compliance in Fiscal Year 2015 (Figure 1)
- NIHSS at Discharge from Critical Care by the RN went from 42% compliance in Fiscal Year 2014 to 91% compliance in Fiscal Year 2015 (Figure 2)

Figure 1

NIHSS at Admit to Critical Care by RN

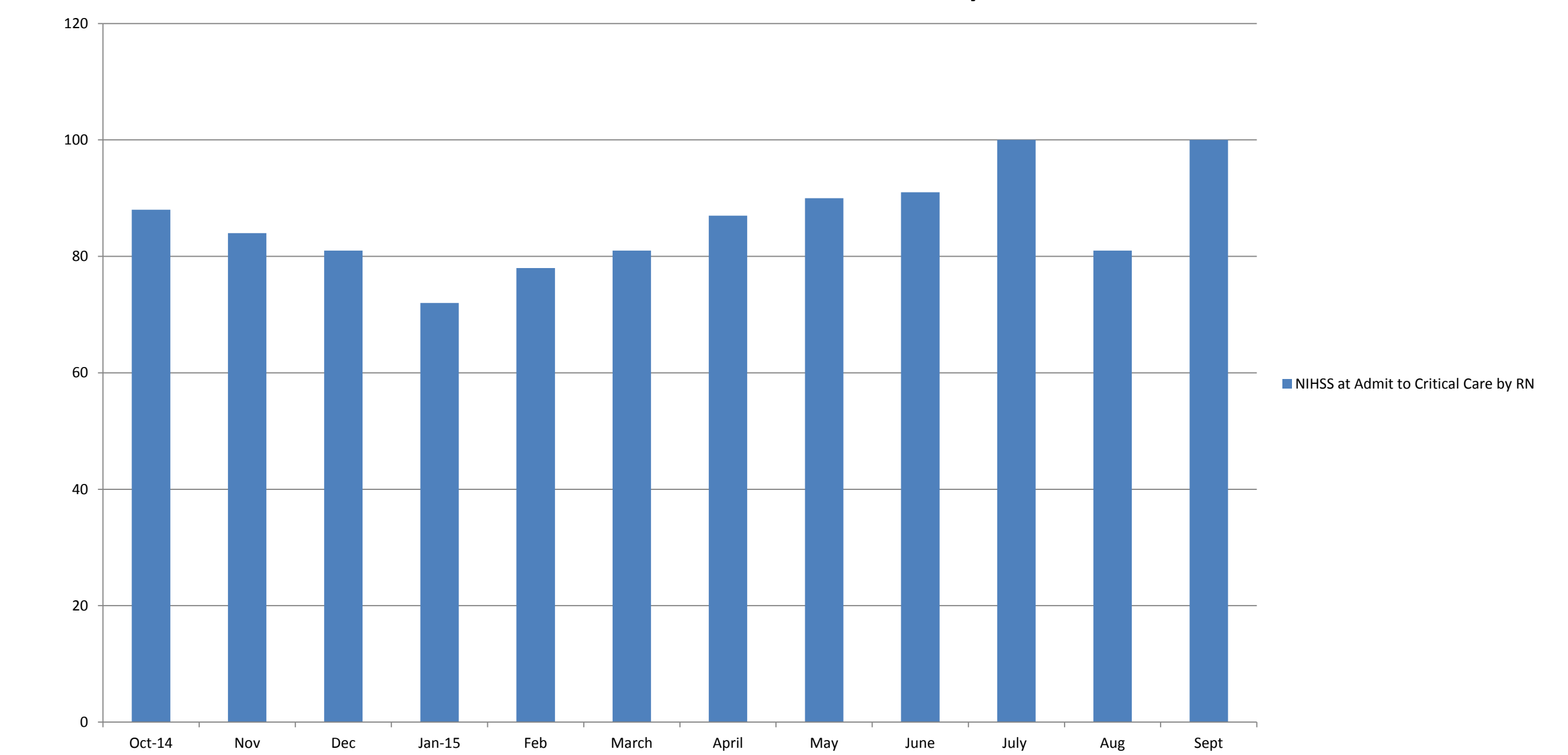
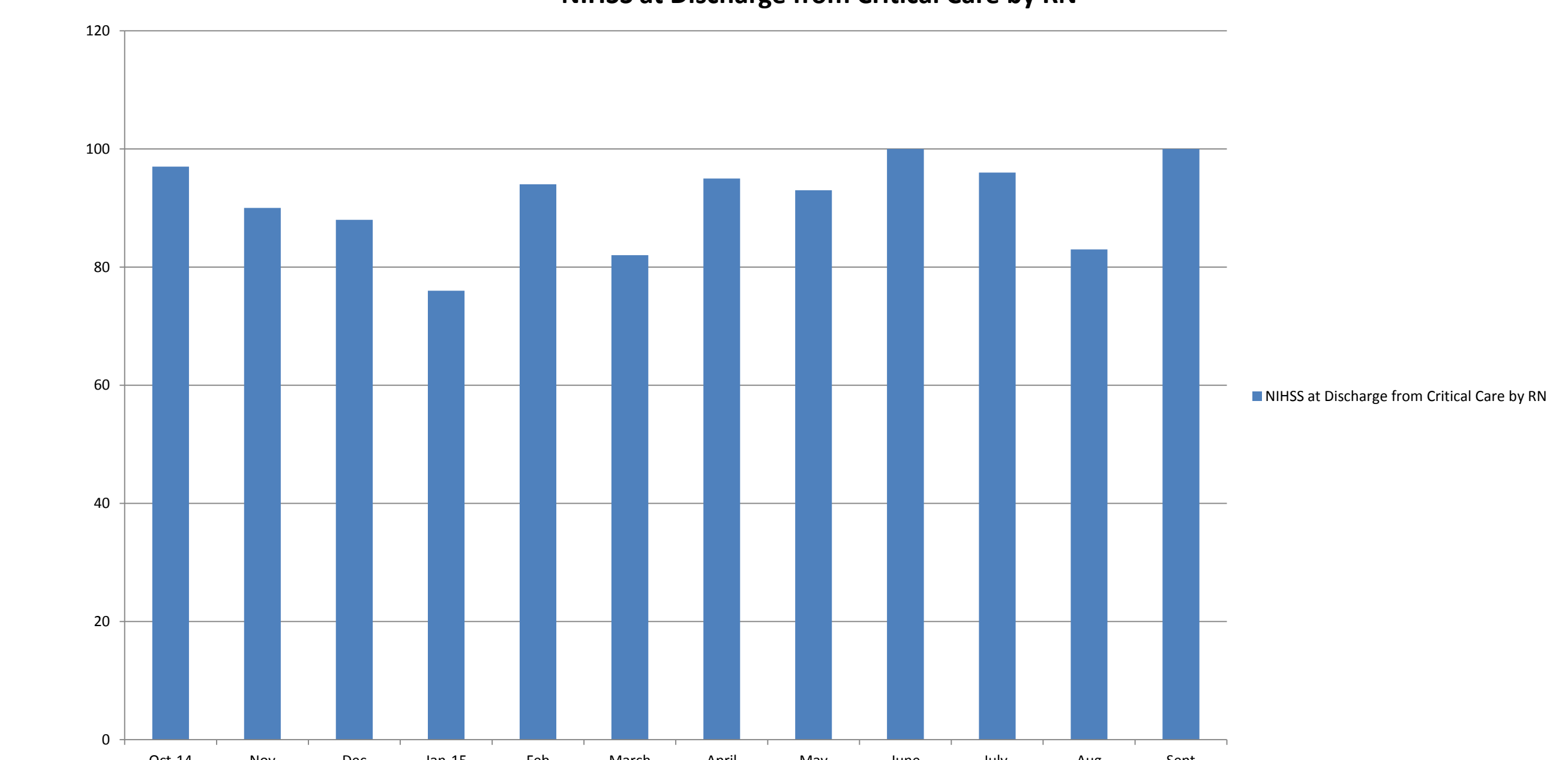


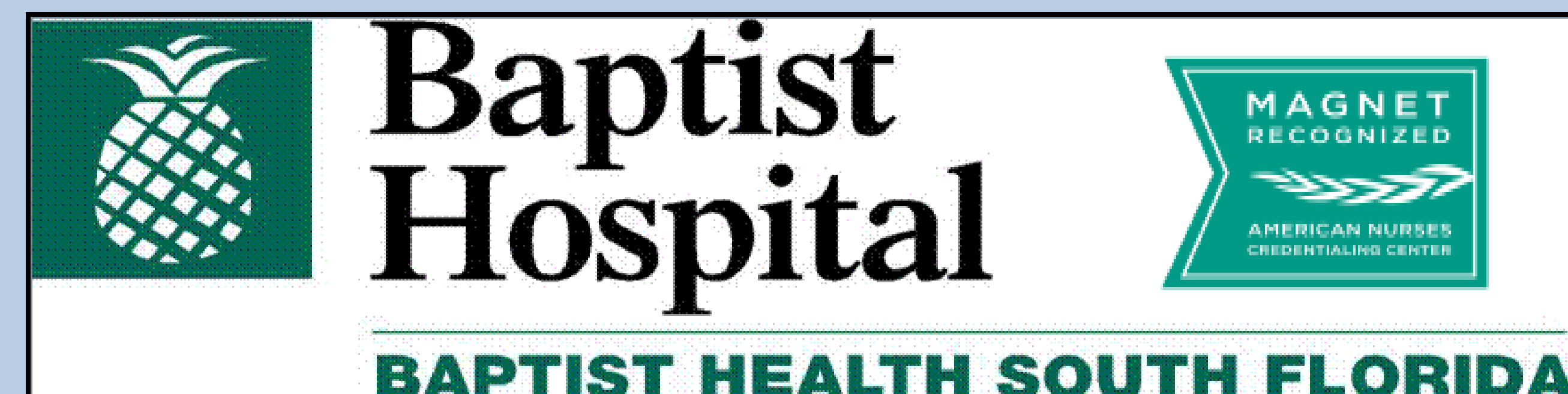
Figure 2

NIHSS at Discharge from Critical Care by RN



## Conclusion

- The inclusion of NIHSS and tPA education increases the assessment skills and knowledge of all staff nurses
- The standardization of education for Critical Care nursing staff has decreased the restricted access to admit Stroke patients into the Critical Care unit



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