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Increase Sense of Ownership to Decrease Patient Falls

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& Mariosis Matias, BSN, RN

Background

- Patient falls are the most common adverse events reported in hospitals.
- Each year, roughly 700,000 to 1 million patient falls occur in U.S. hospitals resulting in around 250,000 injuries and up to 11,000 deaths.¹
- Any fall puts a patient at risk for injury.
- On an medical-surgical (M/S) unit in an acute care hospital, discussion and evaluation of unit level patient safety data with the clinical staff, revealed fluctuating rates of patient falls and falls with injury per 1,000 patient days (PD).
- In the six-month period from July 2020 to December 2020, unit fall rate was 2.38 falls per 1,000 PD and unit falls with injury rate was 0.81 falls per 1,000 PD.

Project Goal

The goal of the project was to decrease patient fall rates on a M/S unit through leveraging a Magnet culture of nursing excellence and accountability by nurses taking ownership of the unit's patient safety nurse sensitive outcomes.

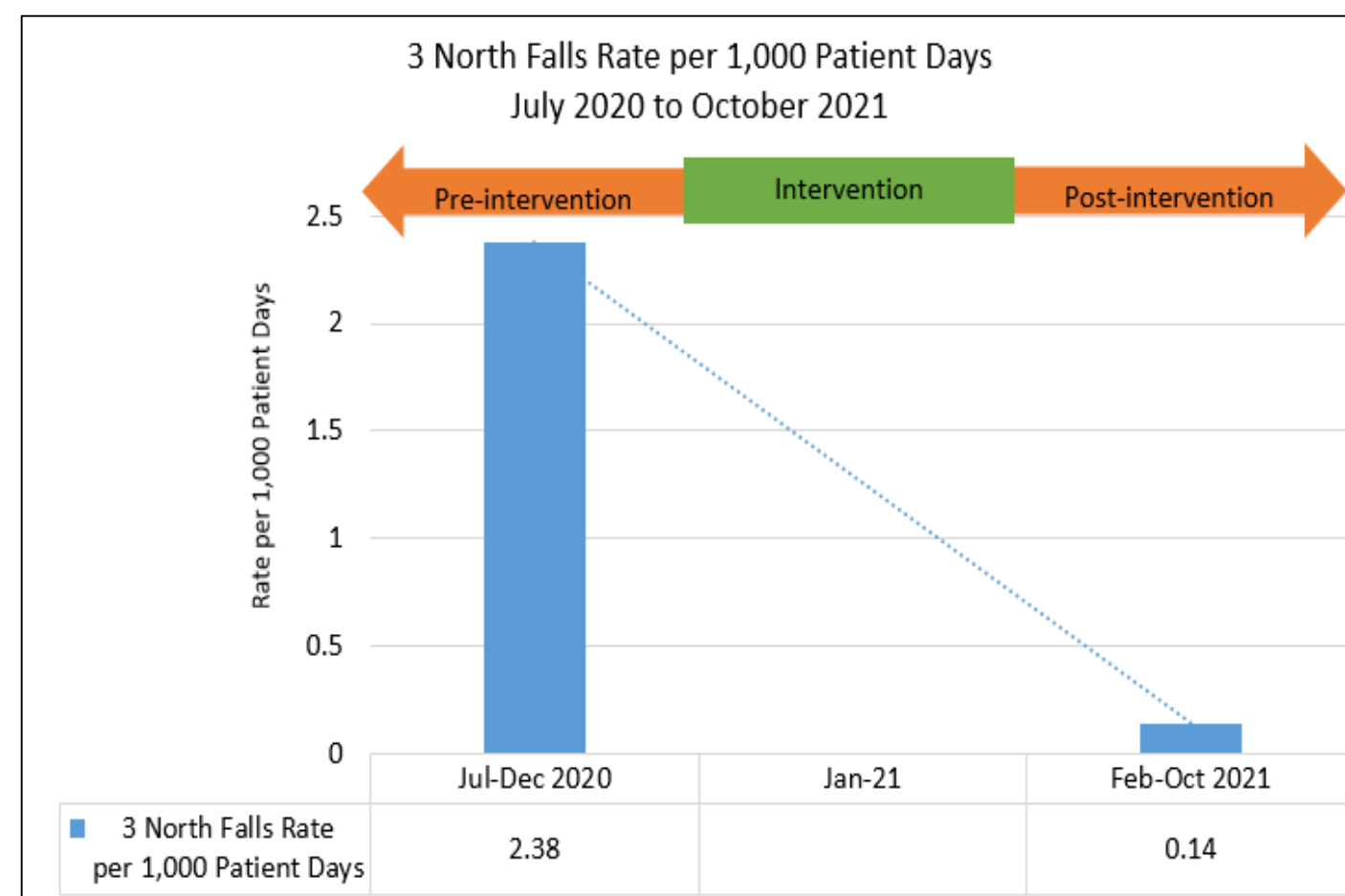


Methods of Implementation

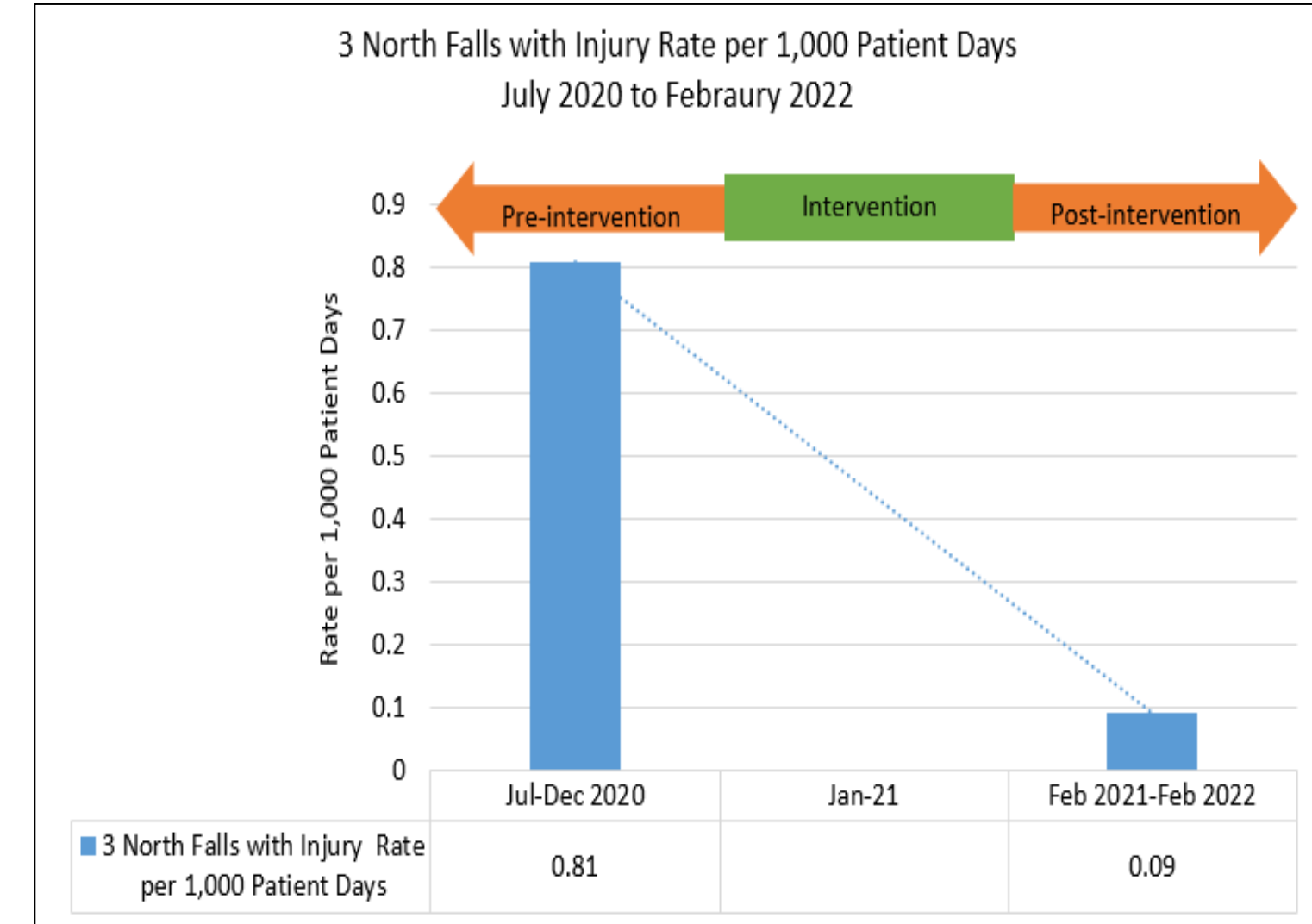
In addition to reinforcement of current fall prevention strategies, beginning in January of 2021, through shared decision-making, the nursing team implemented the following strategies with Clinical Nurse (CN) input:



Outcomes



Outcomes



- This data represents a 94% and 89% decrease in rate of patient falls and falls with injury respectively.

Discussion

- A sense of individual ownership is essential for a unit to be successful in reducing falls.
- Increasing awareness through clinical nurse and staff case presentations, keeping clinical staff accountable and celebrating each day without a fall, improved the sense of ownership resulting in a sustainable decrease in patient falls.

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References available on request

