

Nurse-Led Rounds: Elevating Acute Care Nursing Outcomes

Kaitlyn Stewart, BSN, RN, CPN; Sarah Carnes, BSN, RN; Sarah Edwards, BSN, RN; Shannon Lysaught, MBA, BSN, RN, CPN; Kelsey Ohmes, BSN, RN, CPN; Sarah Parrott, BSN, RN; Halie Breninger, DNP, ARNP, CPNP-PC/AC; Margaret Brimeyer, DNP, ARNP, CPNP-PC/AC; Megan Jensen, DNP, CPNP-PC; Jeffrey Shuler, MD; Camille Harmon, BSN, RN, CPN

Children's Mercy Kansas City

Introduction

- Nurses on the 23 bed Acute Care Cardiology Unit (ACCU) were passive in rounds leading to overlooked critical concerns.
- Rising acuity in the cardiac population exacerbated staff dissatisfaction and nursing turnover, with nursing and APP turnover rates at 26% and 30% respectively. The pre-implementation survey (figure 1) indicated generally positive nurse-provider relationships, but a 2025 culture and engagement survey revealed only 63% of nurses and 74% of providers had favorable overall responses.
- Our center's Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU) previously implemented Nurse-Led Multidisciplinary Rounds which improved collaboration, efficiency and staff satisfaction.
- This project aimed to address staff dissatisfaction and turnover by implementing Nurse-Led Multidisciplinary Rounds within the ACCU.

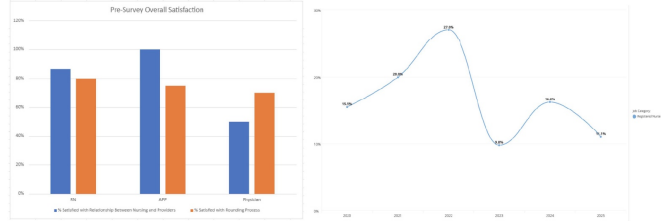


Figure 2: ACCU Staff Turnover Rates for Nurses

Methods

A multidisciplinary team comprised of nursing staff, nursing leadership, physicians and advanced practice providers (APPs) was assembled and began conducting monthly project meetings in March 2025.



Figure 3: ACCU Nurse-Led Multidisciplinary Rounds Project Timeline: The project team communicated regularly and met monthly to achieve project objectives in a timely fashion.

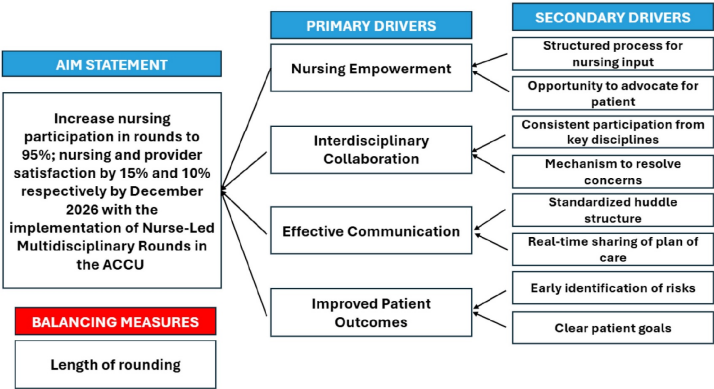


Figure 4: ACCU Nurse-Led Multidisciplinary Rounds Driver Diagram



Figure 5: ACCU Multidisciplinary Nurse Led Rounds Rounding Tool: The project team utilized Plan/Do/Study/Act or PDSA methodology to design iterative versions of a rounding tool based on trial debriefs and staff feedback.

Results

- ACCU Nurse-Led Multidisciplinary Rounds was implemented on February 2, 2026.
- Pre-/Post-implementation data was collected to assess impact on nursing presence and participation in rounds as well as per-patient rounding time as a balancing measure (figure 6).
- Post-implementation data collection results show:
 - Nursing presence at rounds increased 11.4%
 - Nursing participation in rounds increased 42%
 - Per-patient rounding time decreased by 14%
 - Approximately 11% of rounds are still not nurse-led with identified barriers driven by:
 - Workload and Acuity** - ACCU nurses have 2-4 patient assignments with assessments, medications, feeds and sometimes patient concerns limiting the ability to attend rounds, especially before 0900
 - ACCU Complexity** - Off-service and specialty cardiology teams sometimes create overlapping rounding demands
 - Staff Logistics** - Medical students have presentation requirements and float/travel RNs may not be familiar with the nurse-led rounding process

Data Collection Period	Date Range	Observations	ACCU Patient Census Range	Nursing Presence for part or all of Rounds on Patient	Nursing Participation in Rounds	Patient Rounding Time Range	Average Rounding Time Per Patient
Pre-implementation	3/21/2025-5/22/2025	129	9-16	27.9% Part 59.7% All	65.1% contributed to rounds	1-34 minutes	11:21 minutes
Post-implementation	2/2/2026-ongoing	205 as of 3/10/2026	7-19	44.4% Part 93.2% All	92.7% lead rounds	1-28 minutes	9:54 minutes

Figure 6: Data Comparison: Pre- and post-implementation data collection

- A post-implementation survey indicates:
 - Strong support from 82% of nurses, 86% of APPs and all physicians
 - Seventy-six percent of nurses felt they had a better understanding of their patient's plan of care
 - Fifty-eight percent of providers perceiving fewer questions from nurses after rounds
 - Eighteen percent of nurses reported increased workload without added benefit

Conclusion

- Nurse-Led Multidisciplinary Rounds are improving nurse empowerment, confidence, collaboration and efficiency while integrating the vital perspective of nursing into patient care.
- The project team continues to identify and address barriers as the project enters the sustainability phase.
- The project team will continue to monitor staff turnover to determine the project's impact.
- The 2026 Culture and Engagement Survey has not been distributed but results of staff satisfaction will be reviewed when available.

