



It's All About the Base: An Innovative Approach in Patient Education for Patients Living with Heart Failure

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Burning Clinical Question

Will implementing an education checklist improve nursing compliance with pathway documentation for Heart Failure (HF) inpatients?

Background/Triggers

- Our HF department struggled with inconsistent documentation of care plans and patient education pathways, which are in two separate locations in the Electronic Medical Record (EMR)
- Through random audits we discovered a lack of consistent documentation on pathways
- Leadership and nurses voiced concern that pathways were not always documented on until day of discharge
- Knowledge deficit on how to accurately and efficiently document on pathways
- Joint Commission Standards emphasize the need for interdisciplinary care plans which are individualized to the patient
- HF patients require comprehensive education to reduce readmissions

Evidence

- HF patients require comprehensive education to prevent readmissions
- 54% of readmissions may be preventable and inadequate discharge planning and education are common factors in readmission
- Educating patients before discharge promotes self-care, reduces admissions, and helps patients identify problems early
- Heart Failure Society of American recommends that patient education materials include:
 - Activity level
 - Diet
 - Discharge medications
 - Follow-up appointment
 - Weight monitoring
 - What to do if signs or symptoms worsen
- Lack of easy documentation in the EMR is a perceived barrier to provide HF inpatient education
- Creating a checklist can help staff know what education the patient has received

Practice Change

- Our team decided to use the Iowa Model to examine the evidence HF education and documentation
 - Required staff education session which included the following:
 - Selection of correct pathway
 - Documenting on pathway
 - Documenting barriers to progression
 - Starting patient education
 - Resolving education
 - Teach back method
 - HF education tips
- Created a bedside checklist to assist nurses with patient education and documentation
- One-on-one education sessions to ensure nurses were familiar with how to navigate the EMR

Evaluation

- Implementation of checklist combined with focused staff education dramatically increased our documentation compliance
- Our bedside checklist along with daily huddle reminders help to ensure nursing compliance with patient education and pathway documentation
- Nursing voiced improvement of knowledge deficit concerning pathway documentation
- By improving documentation of care plans and education, we are ensuring that our HF patients are benefiting from best practices in HF care.
- Our unit's HF readmission rate remains at 14.45%

Nursing Implications

- This EBP project has positively impacted nursing practice by:
 - Improving staff morale through education and improved proficiency
 - Increasing pathway documentation
 - Increasing patient education
 - Enhancing understanding of how evidence based practice impacts clinical practice
- Education sessions increased staff awareness and have dramatically improved patient education and pathway documentation

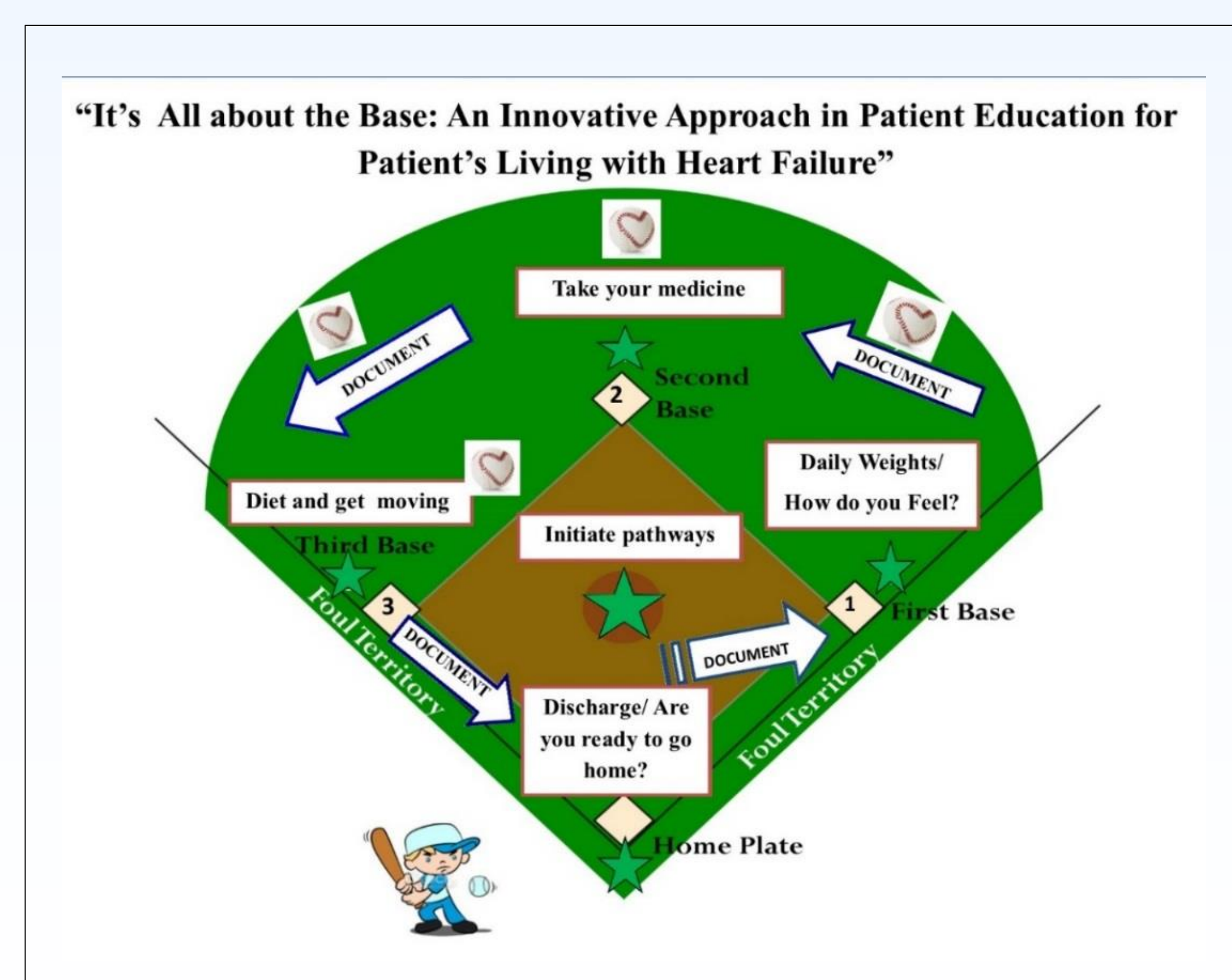
HF Patient Education Audit Tool

Heart Failure Patient Education Audits

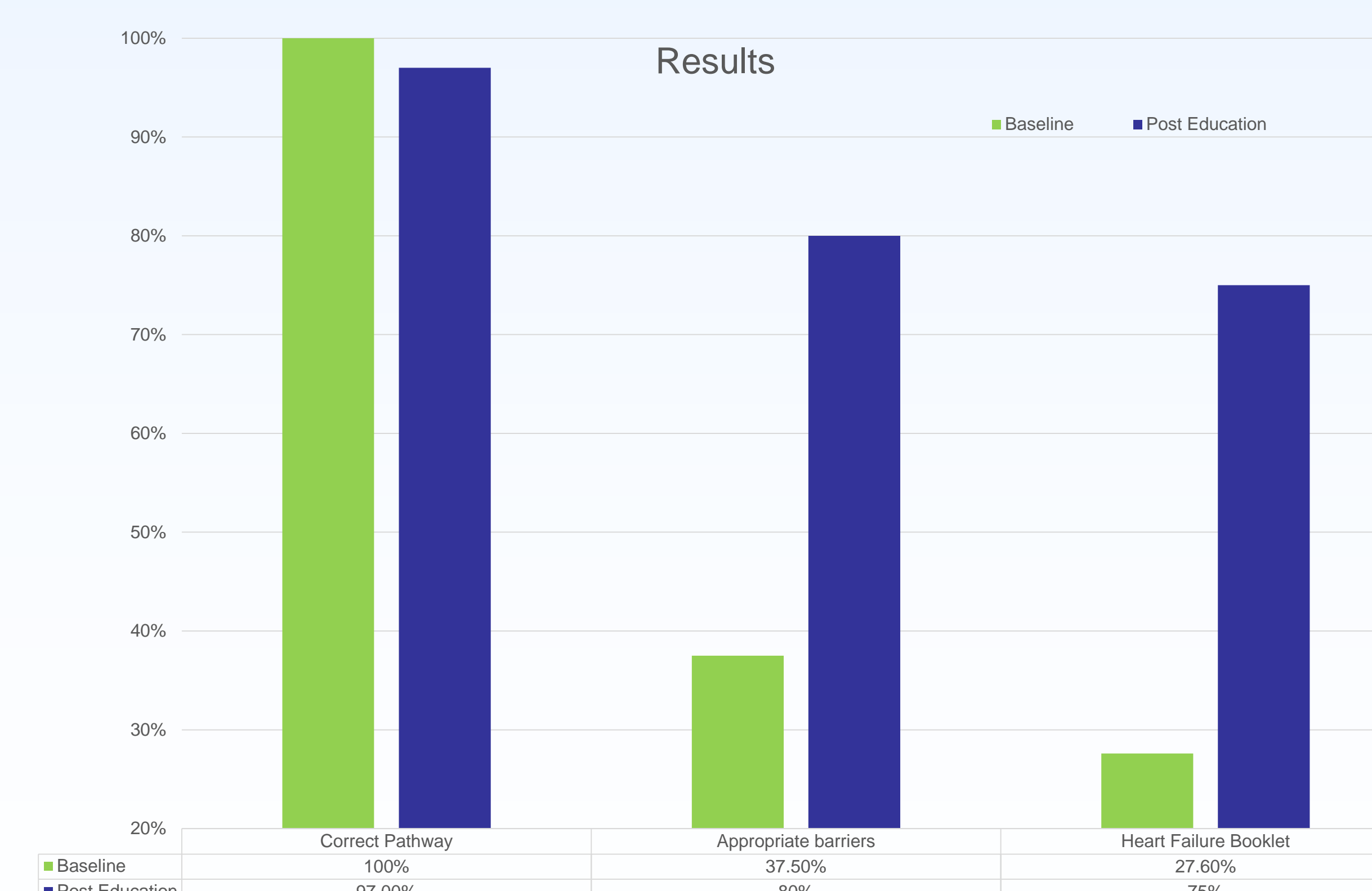
- Is the patient on the correct pathway in CHL?
- If needed, does the patient have the appropriate barriers documented in CHL?
- Is it documented in Patient Education that the patient received the Heart Failure booklet?

Patient Initials Room Number	Question 1 Yes/No	Question 2 Yes/No	Question 3 Yes/ No

Education Checklist



Results



References

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