Stop Light Report:
A Performance Improvement Tool

Presented by: Kaitlin Mulkern, RN and Jessica Cassidy, RN
Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Purpose: To provide information on a standardized tool for improving staff communication, patient safety, and performance improvement.

Elements of action item:
- Date initiated
- Point of contact for action
- Summary of status
- Date resolved or last updated

Statistics:

Outcomes:
- Increased staff communication
- Increased awareness of safety concerns
- Increased safety event reporting
- Increased nursing-specific outcome reports

Background:
- According to the Joint Commission, problems related to communication contribute to 60% of reported sentinel events.
- Effective communication is critical at all levels of an organization, from unit-level performance improvement to multidisciplinary care line committees.

Conclusion:
- The Stop Light Report tool has equal application in clinical and non-clinical settings.
- Providing continued education and training on methods is critical for sustainment.
- Leadership engagement (visibility and accountability) at all levels is vital.
- Feasibility and sustainability must be considered prior to implementation.

Significant Resources
1. JC Root Causes and Percentages for Sentinel Events (All Categories) January 1995–December 2005

Disclaimer: The view(s) expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not reflect the official policy or position of Womack Army Medical Center, the U.S. Army Medical Department, the U.S. Army Office of the Surgeon General, The Department of the Army, the Department of the Air Force and the Department of Defense of the U.S. Government.