

A health care system to meet our needs

The Power of Innovation


Kylie Wright
Clinical Nurse Consultant
Neurosurgery
Liverpool Hospital



Health

Our Innovation:

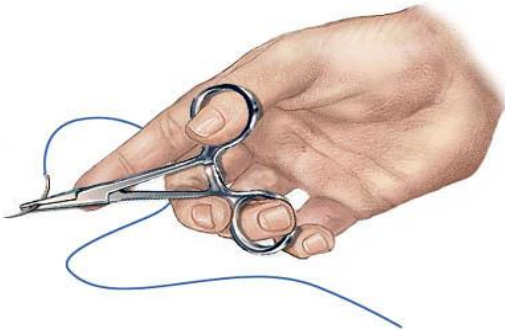
How We Improved Care/Services

- Certain Neurosurgical drains require suturing post removal
 - Historically suturing has been the responsibility of medical staff
 - Clinical review identified delays having these drains removed and the site sutured
- 

“A Stitch in Time” Project

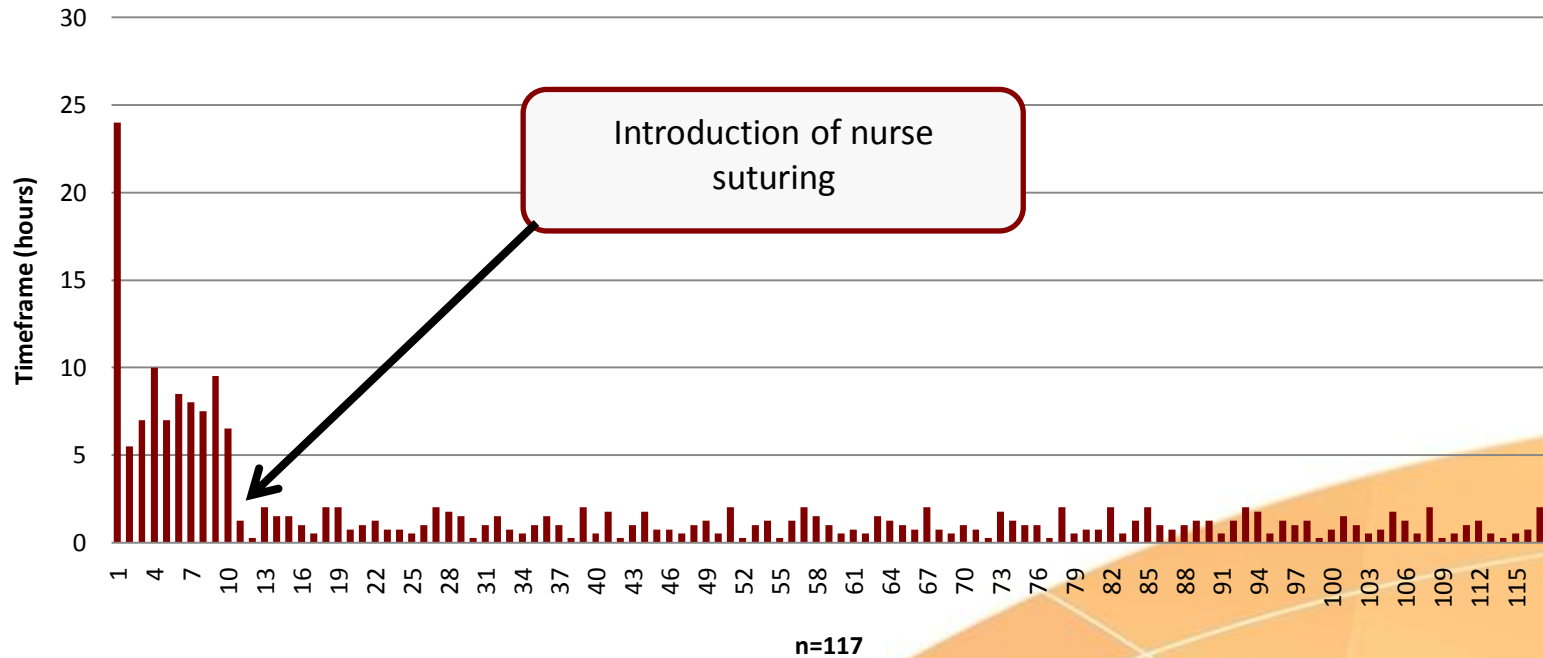
Nurses suturing post neurosurgical drain removal

- Aim was to minimise patient immobility and maximise opportunities to improve patient outcomes by reducing the average time for drain removal and suturing.




Our Innovation: How We Improved Care/Services

Phase 1 Results




Our Innovation: How We Improved Care/Services

Phase 2 Results

- Improved from 47% to 52% of drain sites being sutured by nurses
 - Further improvement to 61%
 - 100% of occasions sutured within the 2 hour benchmark
 - No CSF leaks or infections
- 

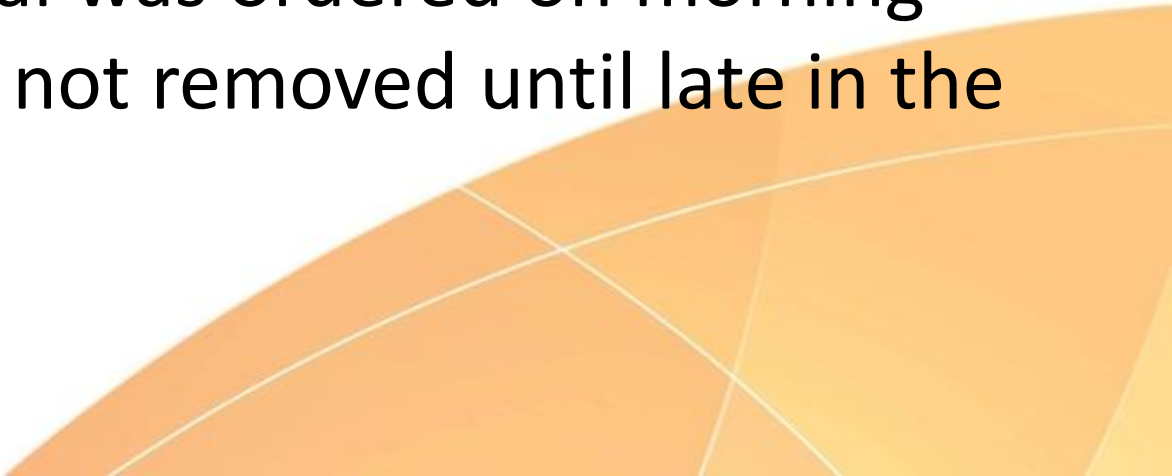
Our Innovation:

How We Improved Care/Services

- Nurses embraced the opportunity
 - Nurses felt very valued and enthusiastic
 - Enjoyed the technical and practice aspects
 - Improving patient outcomes → motivating and satisfying
- 

Our Inspiration:

The Start of the Journey

- Patients were waiting extended periods of time to have drains removed due to a shortage of experienced medical staff able to undertake the suturing
 - The drain removal was ordered on morning rounds, and was not removed until late in the evening
- 

Our Inspiration: The Start of the Journey

Impact on Patients

- Patient discomfort
- Loss of independence
- Increased risk of complications
associated with prolonged immobilisation

Asked the question ?


Can a nurse do this suturing?

Our Idea Comes to Life

- Registered Nurses (RNs) to gain accreditation for the procedure of suturing drain sites after neurosurgical drain removal.


Set a benchmark to remove and suture drains within 2 hours of request for removal.

Our Idea Comes to Life


- Consultation process
 - gain support
 - recognition as an advanced clinical skill
 - expansion of the neurosurgical nursing role
 - CNC Neurosurgery be trained initially
 - Practice change outcomes to be reviewed and analysed
 - Train more RNs in the future
- 

Our Idea Comes to Life

Planning and Implementation


- Development of a Policy
 - Competency assessment tool
 - Booklet to record training processes
 - Suturing experience logbook
- 

Our Idea Comes to Life

- **Phase 1** - trial undertaken by the CNC, including education and evaluation of the outcomes.
 - **Phase 2** - depended on the outcomes of Phase 1, and involved the expansion of the project to other staff members.
 - **Problem – Nurses attending Suturing workshop**
- 

Our Insights: What We Have Learned

Keys to success


- Collaboration
 - Strong leadership and support
 - Dedicated nursing education was provided and formally recognised
 - Timely feedback of results
- 

Our Insights: What We Have Learned

- Positive effects on nursing practice
- Positive effects on patient outcomes
- Prevents known complications of bed-rest



Conclusion

- Rethinking of roles
 - Enabling nurses to gain accreditation for the procedure of suturing
 - Timely patient care
 - Achieve neuroscience nursing
 - professional development
 - satisfaction
 - strengthening of career pathways
- 

Thank you



LIVERPOOL
HOSPITAL



Kylie Wright
Clinical Nurse Consultant
Neurosurgery
Liverpool Hospital
NSW Australia
Kyliem.wright@sswahs.nsw.gov.au