rates. All outcomes were analyzed on statistical process control charts.

**Results**
From January 2017 through August 2019, 334 patients had confirmed DKA (bicarbonate level <15) and received IV insulin therapy in the ED or on the acute care unit. Following our interventions, the number of patients experiencing a low blood glucose level improved from 53% to 42% (figure 1). Order panel utilization rate remained at 96%. There was no change in our balancing measures.

**Conclusions**
Use of QI methodology and standardized DKA management resulted in a meaningful reduction in the number of patients with a BG<100 mg/dL episode while on IV insulin.

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**Abstract 31**

**REDUCING VARIABILITY IN DISCHARGE COMMUNICATION REDUCES ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN**

Stephanie Lumpkin, Ian Kratzke, Clark Howell, Nicole Chaumont. University of North Carolina, USA

Background Streamlined discharge communication in transitions of care improvement models improve patient satisfaction, improve patient self-efficacy, and reduce readmissions. Yet, significant variability and quality exists in the After Visit Summary (AVS) which is used to guide the post-discharge needs of the patient.

Objectives We sought assess the feasibility, fidelity, acceptability, and effectiveness of a standardized, patient-centered AVS.

Methods Our multiprofessional and multidisciplinary stakeholder team was led by two physicians and had significant institutional support. We employed a tailored, hybrid implementation strategy, blending components from Lean methodology, the Institute for Healthcare Model for Improvement, and the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research. We assessed the feasibility (e.g. quality of AVS, usability of template), fidelity (e.g. template utilization rates), acceptability (e.g. direct stakeholder feedback, paging-system audit, patient call logs), and effectiveness (e.g. 30-day readmission rates and patient-centeredness) of our intervention (e.g. standardized, patient-centered AVS).

Results Our AVS template was written at a third grade reading level but retained all clinically-relevant information. Providers and patients approved of the template with 66% mean utilization (range 41% to 80%). After our intervention, we observed decreased 30-day readmissions (19.7% to 16.0%). Notably, after the introduction of AVS template, pages sent decreased by 3.67 pages weekly (95% CI= [−15.7, 14.0]), but this estimate was imprecise.

Conclusions Reducing variability and improving the quality of discharge communication, not only improves patient outcomes, but may also improve workflow for providers. These improved team dynamics are important to assess when considering an intervention that is operationalized by time and resource deprived employees.

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**Abstract 32**

**THE 4 MS STRATEGY TO FALL PREVENTION**


Background Despite the fact that many organizations have implemented fall risk scales to identify patients at risk, fall
UTMC Multidisciplinary Fall Prevention
New guidelines April 2016

4 Ms (Morse, Mobility, Mentation, Medications)

- Fall risk assessment
- Morse scale assessment
- Balance/gait assessment
- Mental status assessment
- Polypharmacy report

- Appropriate interventions

- Unchanged

- Individualized tools to assess fall risk

- Based on assessment
management continues to challenge healthcare providers. In 2015, we noticed the Morse scale alone was an inadequate tool to fully assess a patient’s fall risk and began an intensive examination of our fall prevention protocol.

**Objectives**

Our initial aim was to assess any inadequacies in our fall prevention policies or guidelines. Subsequently, we wanted to identify and establish interventions that were effective at preventing patient falls, especially among high fall risk patients.

**Methods**

We selected Lean Six Sigma as our robust quality improvement (QI) methodology to conduct a detailed systems-based investigation. More specifically, we utilized fishbone diagrams, value stream maps, Pareto charts, flowcharts, control charts, and the 5 Whys throughout the study. Based on our findings, our team developed the 4 M strategy that promotes a multidisciplinary approach in the individualized and comprehensive assessment of a patient’s Morse score, mental status, mobility, and medications. Furthermore, we periodically
evaluated our fall rates and analyzed our patient safety reporting to adjust the guidelines using additional quantitative methods.

**Results** Over the past 3 years, continuous monitoring of monthly falls demonstrated a 40% reduction within the acute care population after implementation of the revised fall risk protocol.

**Conclusions** Our strategy towards investigating the problem and devising data-driven solutions with robust QI tools was further facilitated through working with different disciplines, such as nursing, pharmacy, rehabilitation services, resident physicians, information technology, and health systems science specialists.