Digitisation of subacute rehabilitation documentation is **feasible**, **efficient** and **comprehensive**

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The digital transformation of treatment records from paper to electronic in a rehabilitation setting at Monash Health

BACKGROUND

Despite the introduction of electronic medical records (EMR) to the inpatient service in 2020, rehabilitation clinicians continued to use a hybrid model of paper and digital based documentation. This two-step process was inconsistent across the hospital continuum, inefficient, impacted communication and increased risk of breaching patient confidentiality.

OBJECTIVE

To evaluate if the digitisation of treatment records for physiotherapists and allied health assistants (AHAs) is feasible, comprehensive and more efficient.

PDSA CYCLE ONE

METHODS

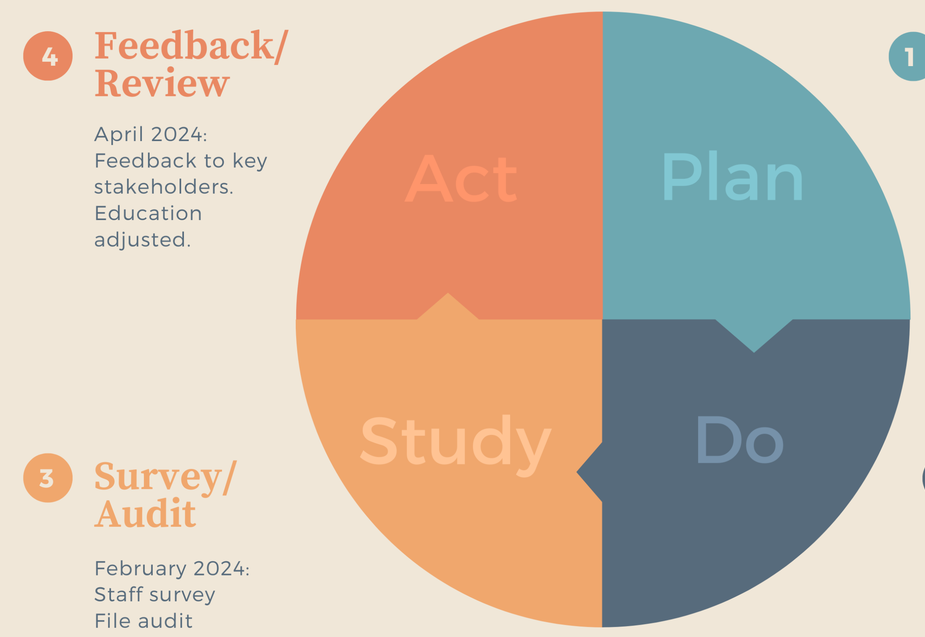
An audit tool was developed. Patient records were randomised and screened for eligibility. Data was extracted from EMR treatment records by four clinicians. Participants completed a post implementation survey evaluating their perspective on documentation efficiency.

18 Clinicians
14 Physiotherapists
4 AHAs

4 wards
3 months

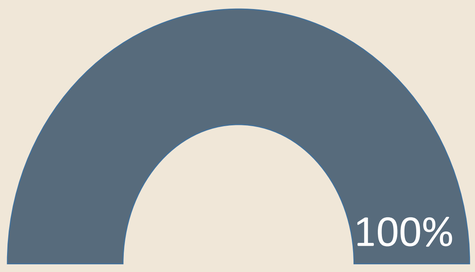
Staff education delivered

Staff commenced documenting in digital format.



RESULTS

Survey (n=10)



All clinicians (n=10) reported documentation on EMR is more efficient

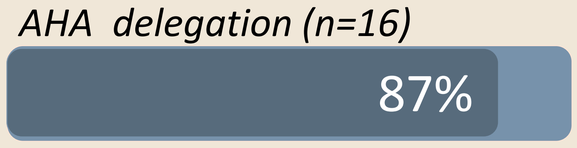
Audit (n=133)

Physiotherapist documentation (n=80)

Detailed exercise prescription and treatment

Mobility recommendation

AHA delegation (n=16)

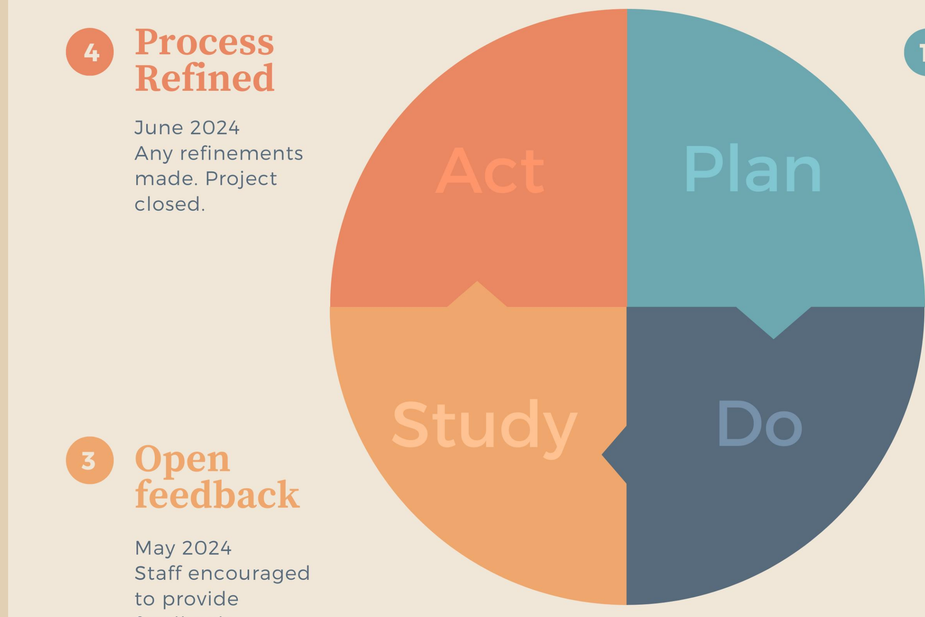


Detailed AHA delegations

AHA documentation (n=37)

Detailed exercise prescription and treatment

PDSA CYCLE TWO



CONCLUSION

Physiotherapist and AHA treatment record documentation on EMR is feasible, comprehensive, efficient, and streamlines documentation standards across the continuum. EMR documentation replaced existing paper based documentation for all physiotherapy and AHA treatment sessions across all rehabilitation wards. Future work requires exploration of documentation for Exercise Physiology, Aquatic Physiotherapy and groups.

Monash Health