Austin Health

Development and Implementation of an Electronic Risk Assessment tool for Acute Hospital Patients

Part 1: Current Use and Effectiveness of Paper Based Risk Assessment Tools in Clinical Practice

Fresenius Kabi
Caring for Life

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ACACI Austin Centre for Applied Clinical Informatics

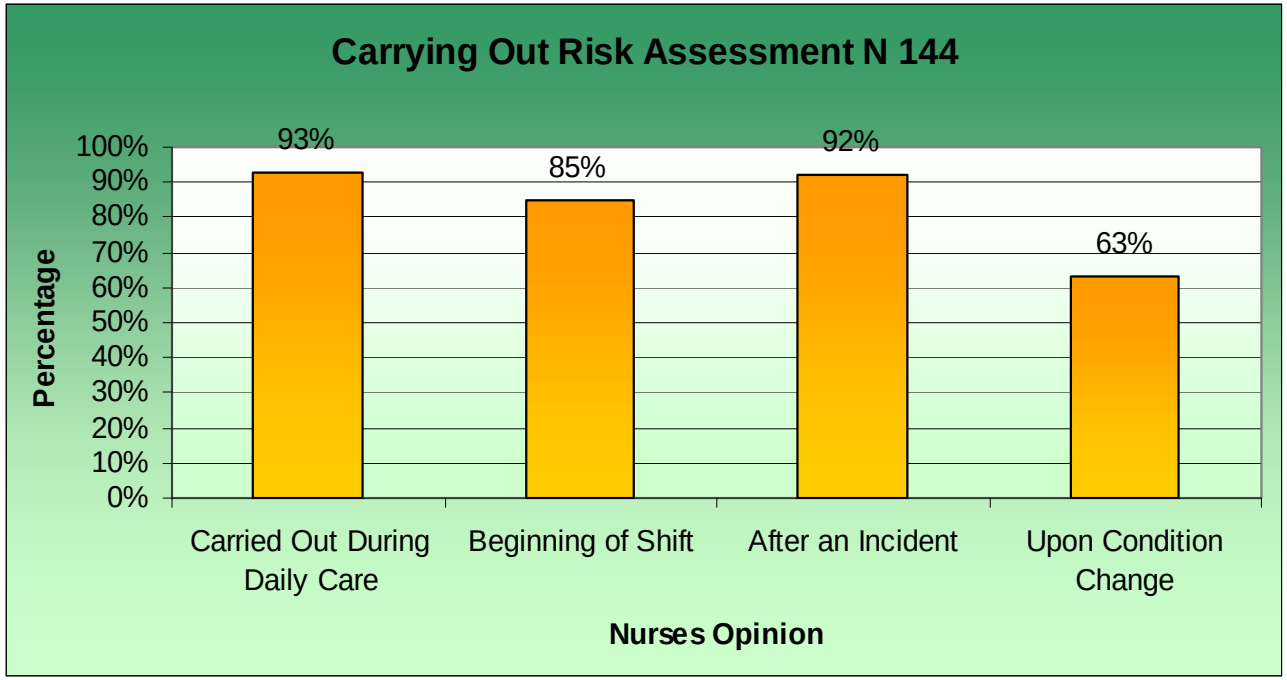
Overview Current Nursing Risk Assessment

- When do nurses carry out risk assessment ?
- Does it assist with care planning?
- Are there time constraints?
- Have they been educated about risk assessment?
- Do they value the current paper based risk assessment form?
- Have they been educated about the current form?
- Would a computerised form assist their practice?

Methodology

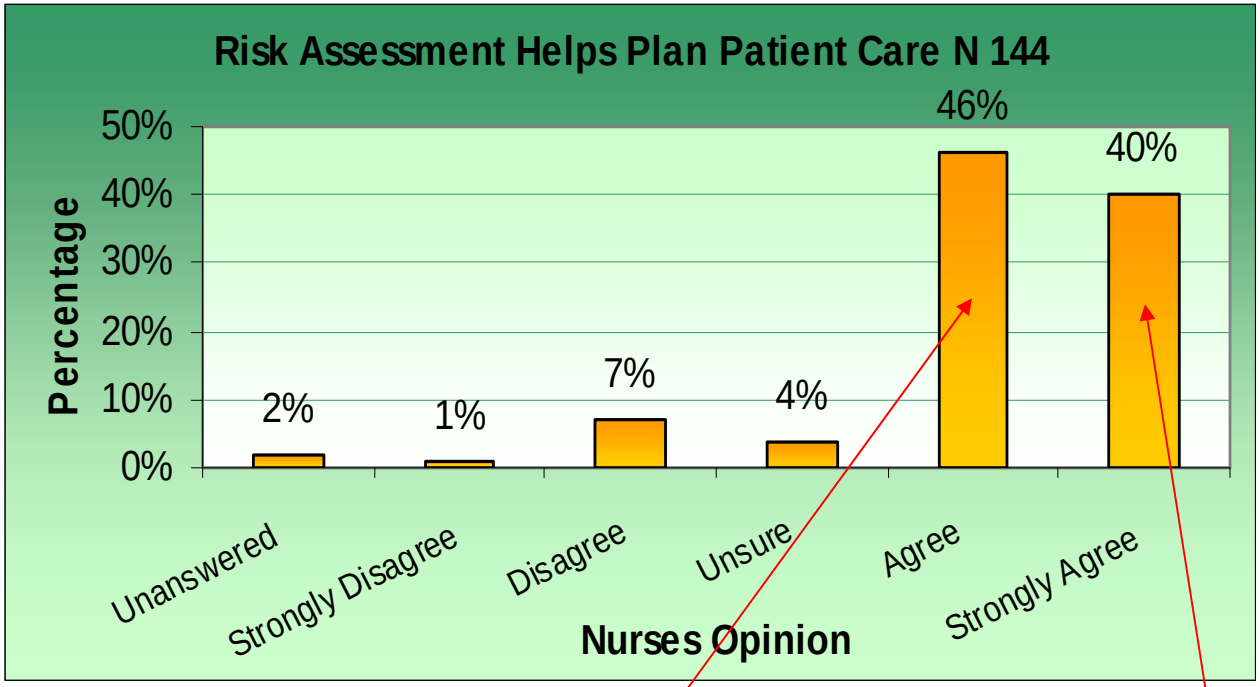
- Purpose developed questionnaire
- 10 randomly selected wards wards surveyed
- Over 3 campuses
- 415 surveys distributed
- 144 completed
- 35% Response rate

When Risk Assessment is Done



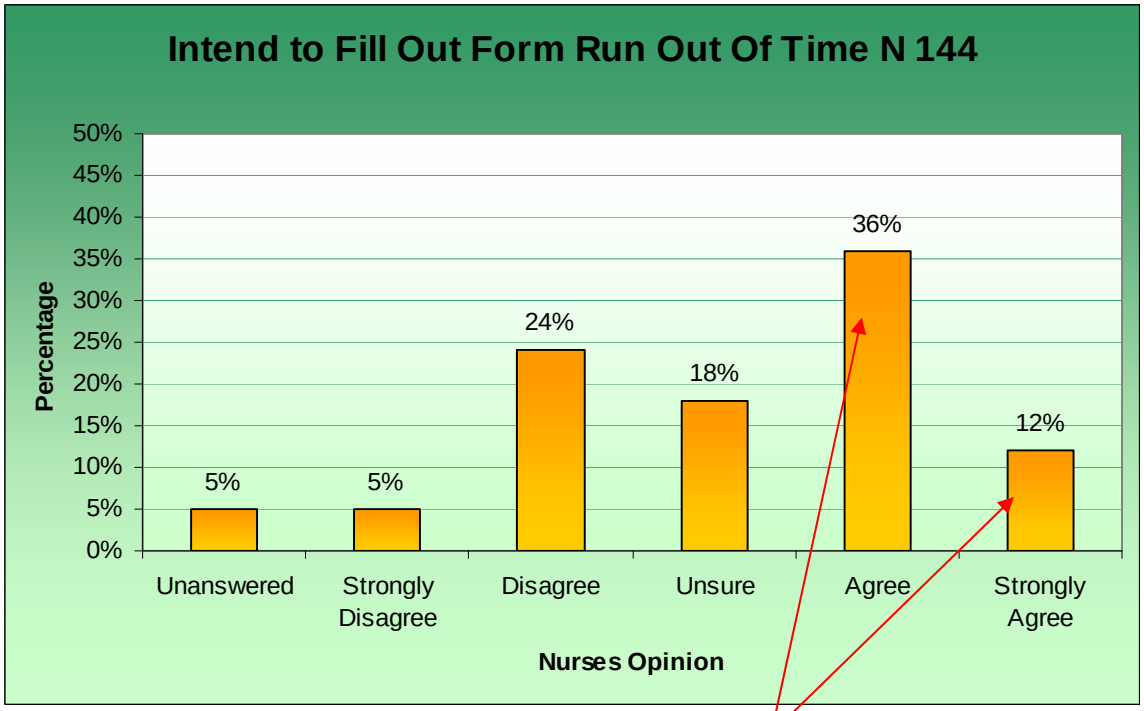
The majority of nurses, > 85% carry out risk assessment during their daily care, at the beginning of a shift and after an incident. However, a lesser number 63%, re-evaluate risk upon condition change.

Assists Nurses Plan Care



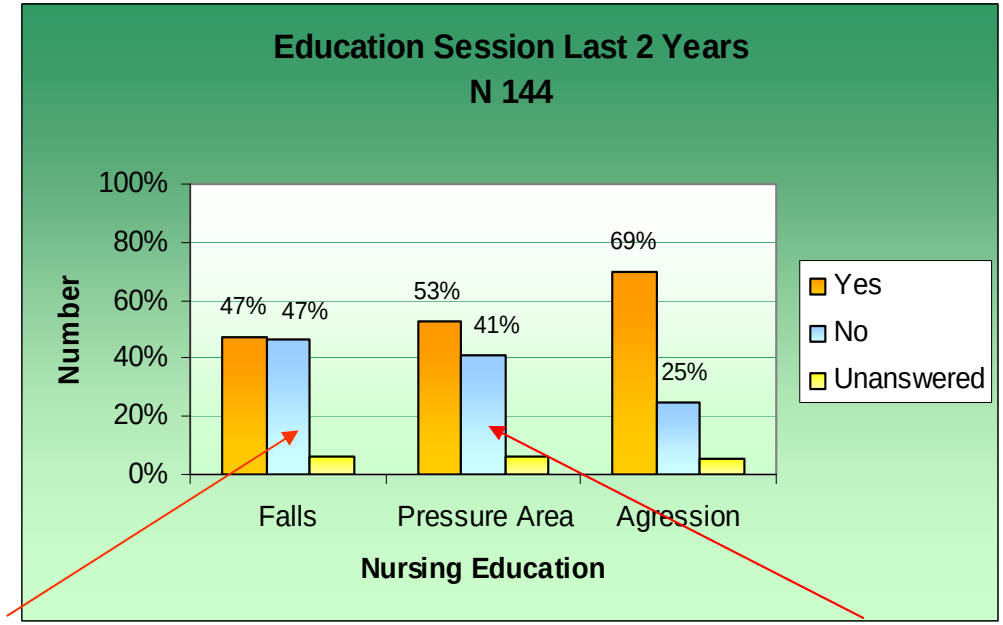
The majority of nurses agree (46%) or strongly agree (40%) that carrying out a risk assessment assists with care planning.

Nursing Time Constraints



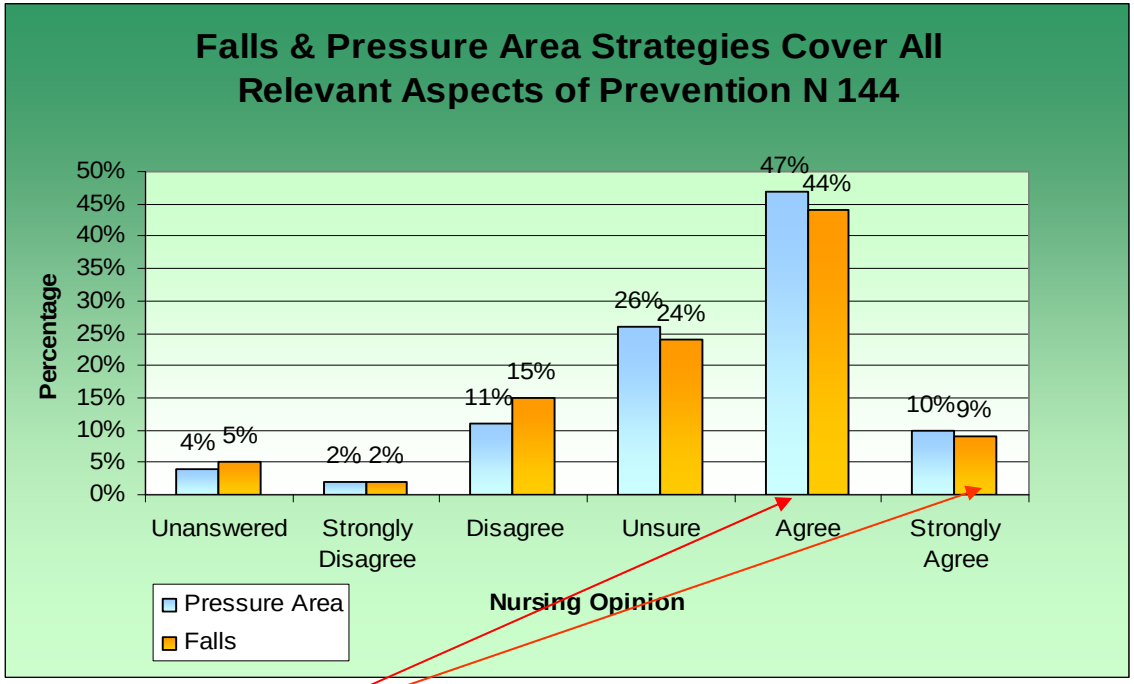
48% of nurses indicated that they often intended to fill out the current risk assessment form but then ran out of time.

Educated on Risk Assessment



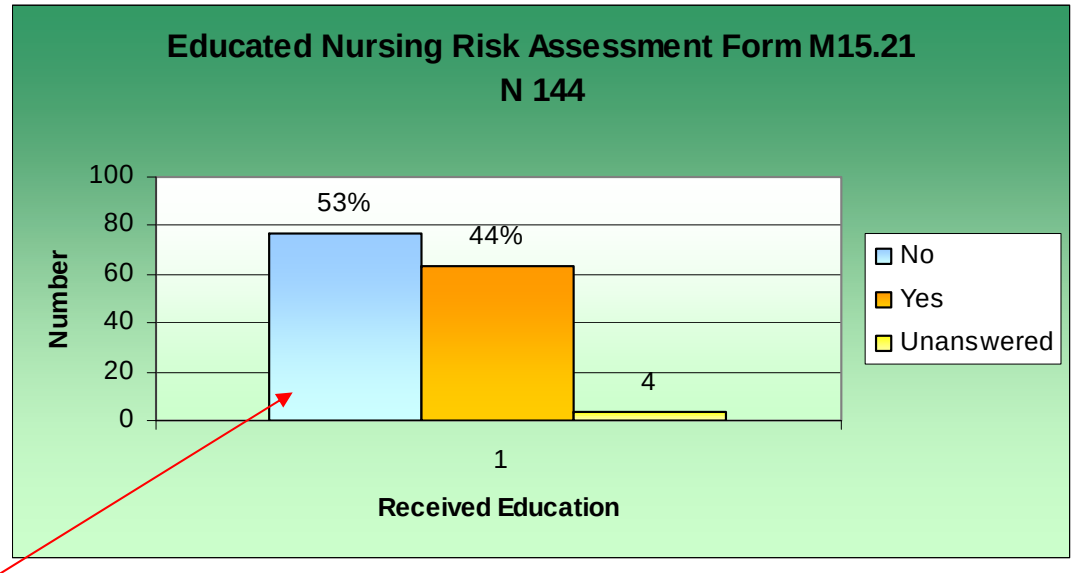
There is still a significant percentage of nursing staff who require education on risk assessment, with pressure areas and falls showing the largest gap.

Value Strategies on Current Form



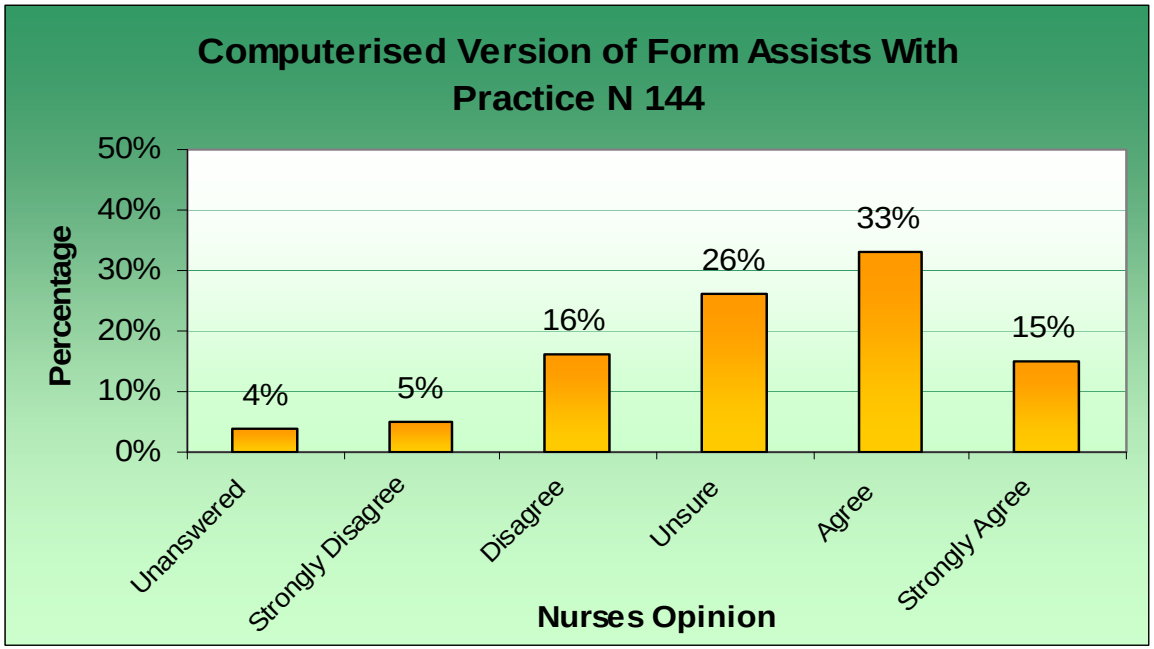
Greater than 50% of nurses agree or strongly agree that the strategies on the current risk assessment form cover all relevant aspects of prevention

Educated on Risk Assessment Form



53% of nurses surveyed indicated that they had not received any education on the use of the current nursing risk assessment form.

Computerised Form Assists With Practice



33% of nurses agreed and 15% strongly agreed that a computerised risk assessment form with risk strategies, equipment ordering, and referral capabilities would assist in their practice. 26% were unsure and 16% disagreed.

Conclusion

Electronic tool development will need to encompass :

- Current nursing workflow
- Interactions within the multidisciplinary team.
- Time saving features
- Decision Support functionality
- Strong change management & education of staff

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