

## **Capturing Advanced Practice Provider Productivity in a Surgical Setting**

### **Abstract**

**Background and Purpose:** There is no current best practice for tracking Advanced Practice Provider productivity in academic surgical settings. Many academic medical centers allocate APP productivity under surgeon work efforts via the global billing period. The purpose of this quality improvement project was to attempt to identify the best way to track productivity.

**Methods:** This quality improvement project was completed in a Department of Surgery at an academic children's hospital. Of 55 eligible participant Advanced Practice providers, 31 elected to complete the pre- and post- survey to look at workload perception and job satisfaction with time for activities and a time study. The validated tools utilized included the Subjective Nursing Workload Assessment, the Meisner Job Satisfaction survey, and the Gardner time study, designed for nurse practitioners. A dashboard of electronic medical record touches was also created.

**Results:** The pre- and post- survey did not show substantive differences in scores. The time study demonstrated that most of the participants are spending significant amounts of time in direct patient care, including physical examination and history taking, as well as documentation and retrieving information for the electronic medical record. The dashboard shows promise in clarifying work volumes.

**Conclusions:** Findings suggest that a significant portion of Advanced Practice Provider work effort is allocated to patient facing activities and documentation, which is supported by the literature and the electronic medical record dashboard created in this study.

**Implications:** Advanced Practice Provider productivity in an academic surgical department can be approached through a variety of methods, including those described in this quality improvement project. Future implications include expanding the study size to the general pediatric nurse practitioners, and possibly including time spent in charts as part of the dashboard.

**Keywords:** Advanced Practice Providers, productivity, time study, electronic medical record dashboard, job satisfaction, service value units, wRVUs