

Empowering the bedside nurse during ward round on the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)

Sophie White, Senior Sister, Paediatric Critical Care

Background

Communication is essential between the nursing and multidisciplinary team when planning patient care during a ward round. There are many factors which can lead to information being miscommunicated or misunderstood, such as the hierarchy felt between the nursing and medical teams but also environmental factors such as stress, workload or fatigue. The aim is to improve nursing engagement during the ward round on PICU by 50% by using the acronym STANDSS. Hopefully this will enhance the collaboration between the nursing and medical teams

and help promote effective teamwork¹. STANDSS will empower bedside nurses to have more influence on patient management, creating a platform for the nurses to speak up and encourage free flow of information with the multidisciplinary teams, which junior nurses can find intimidating at times. By covering all aspects of care, this ensures a high standard of holistic patient centered care is delivered to each of our children and families².

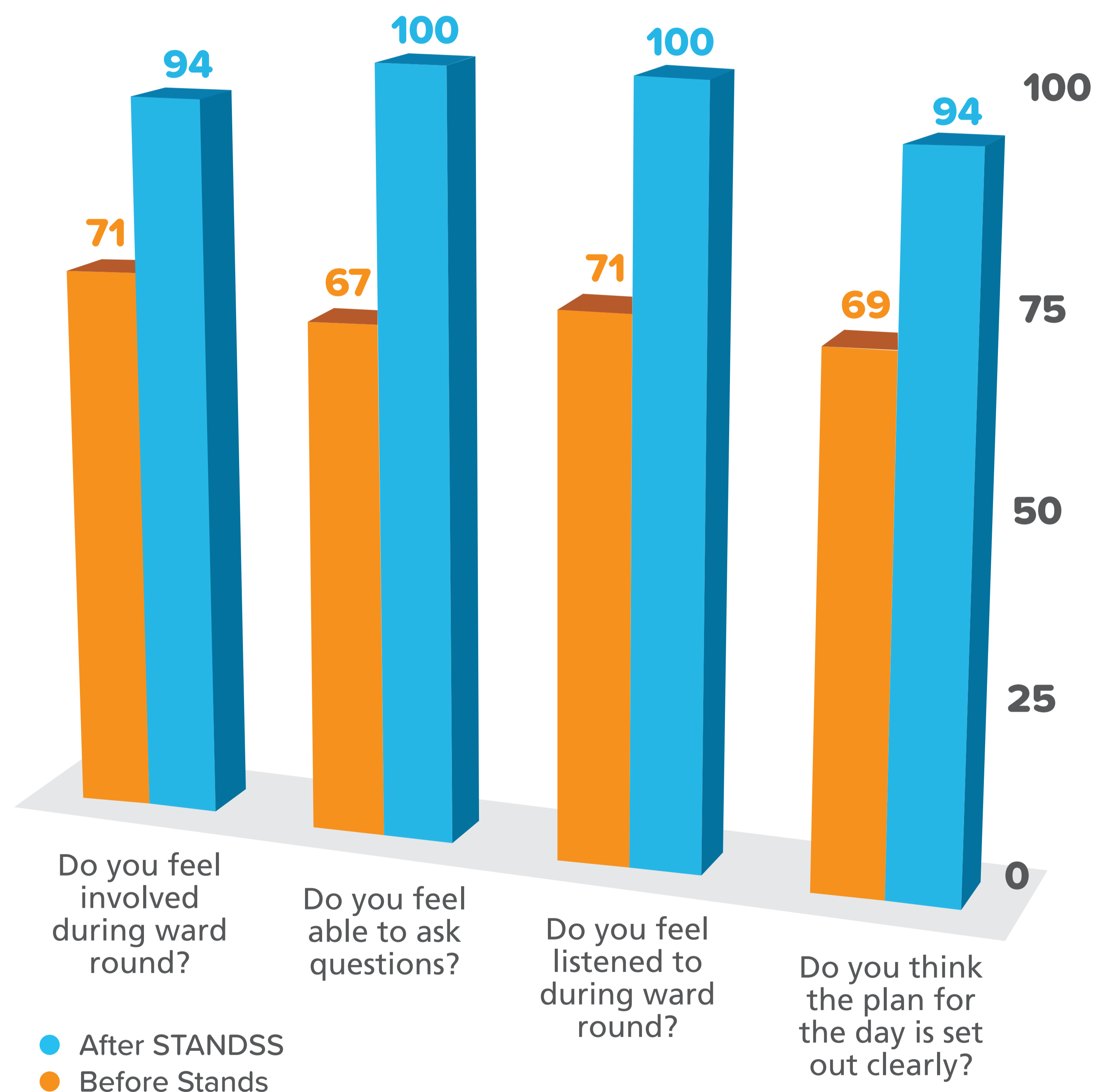
Method

I circulated a questionnaire to all staff on PICU who were involved in ward round, this was using a mix of qualitative and quantitative data collection. A 50% response rate was achieved which showed that 31% of staff, mainly band 5 nurses, did not feel included and 33% of staff did not feel able to ask questions during ward round. I presented my findings and gained support from the consultants and senior nursing team.

Implementation was challenging, as introducing a change within clinical practice is always met with some degree of resistance. It was first added to evening ward round to allow staff the time to become familiar with the tool and then introduced on the morning ward round. The feedback and engagement was very positive from both the nursing and the medical teams.

Results

After one year of using STANDSS, I resent the original questionnaire to the team so that a fair comparison could be made. The results were extremely positive showing that now 94% of staff felt included and 100% felt able to ask questions.



- S** - Sedation and Analgesia
 - T** - Tube and Ventilation
 - A** - Access and Lines
 - N** - Nutrition and Fluid Allowance
 - D** - Drugs
 - S** - Social
 - Ss** - Skin
-

Conclusion

The use of STANDSS is now embedded into our culture on PICU, giving a platform for the bedside nurses to speak up and have a say in patient care. This has helped the bedside nurses feel included and valued members of the ward round team. Not only has this empowered the nursing staff but has also given the medical teams a deeper insight into how the patient's care is progressing, along with improved parental communication as the nursing staff can feed back parental issues/concerns.

References

1. Gluyas, H. (2015). *Effective communication and team work promotes patient safety*. Nursing Standard.
2. West, M., Dawson, J., Admasachew, L., et al. (2011). *NHS staff management and health service quality*. Department of Health: London.