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ABSTRACT / OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this project is to reduce paper waste, maintain accurate records of the types of cases encountered by new employees—specifically Registered Nurses, Scrub Technicians, and Transition in Practice (TIP) Nurses—in the operating room, identify learning gaps, and enable efficient auditing of collected data.

DESCRIPTION OF TEAM

The Surgical Services Educator was primarily responsible for monitoring and assigning tasks within the tracking system. Access to the employee tracker was granted to leadership team members, including the Director, Manager, Supervisors, and Charge Registered Nurses.

PREPERATION AND PLANNING

- A unique Quick Response (QR) code was assigned to each staff member to facilitate accurate logging and tracking of the types of surgical cases they encountered.
- Categories of surgery were designated by generic service lines, i.e.: general, ortho, urology, etc.

ASSESSMENT

A survey-style form was completed for each case and linked to a unique QR code. This allowed leadership to efficiently visualize and identify learning gaps across general service lines.



Example of case tracker given to new employee

IMPLEMENTATION

A survey-based quiz was developed for each new employee requiring case and experience tracking within the operating room. Each quiz was linked to a personalized QR code, printed on a 2x3” laminated card, and distributed to the employee. Expectations to log each case were clearly communicated, and understanding was verified through return demonstration. Leadership conducted follow-ups to ensure the tracker was being utilized effectively and to identify any learning gaps or concerns related to preceptor performance.

Example of survey questions

1. Date completed the case:
Enter your answer

2. What was the procedure you participated in?
Enter your answer

3. What Category does the procedure fall under?

General (non Robot)

General Robot

ENT

Ortho

Ortho (Total)

OB

Thoracic

Cardio Vascular

Neuro Spine

Neuro Crani

Urology

4. Please evaluate your performance:

0 – No previous experience

1 – Little experience, needs help setting up and preceptor present at all times

2 – Able to do the case somewhat independently but needs preceptor help

3 – Able to perform independently completely without preceptor help

4 – Able to perform independently, able to precept if asked

0

1

2

3

4

5. Who was your preceptor?
Enter your answer

6. Please rate your preceptor on their teaching ability?

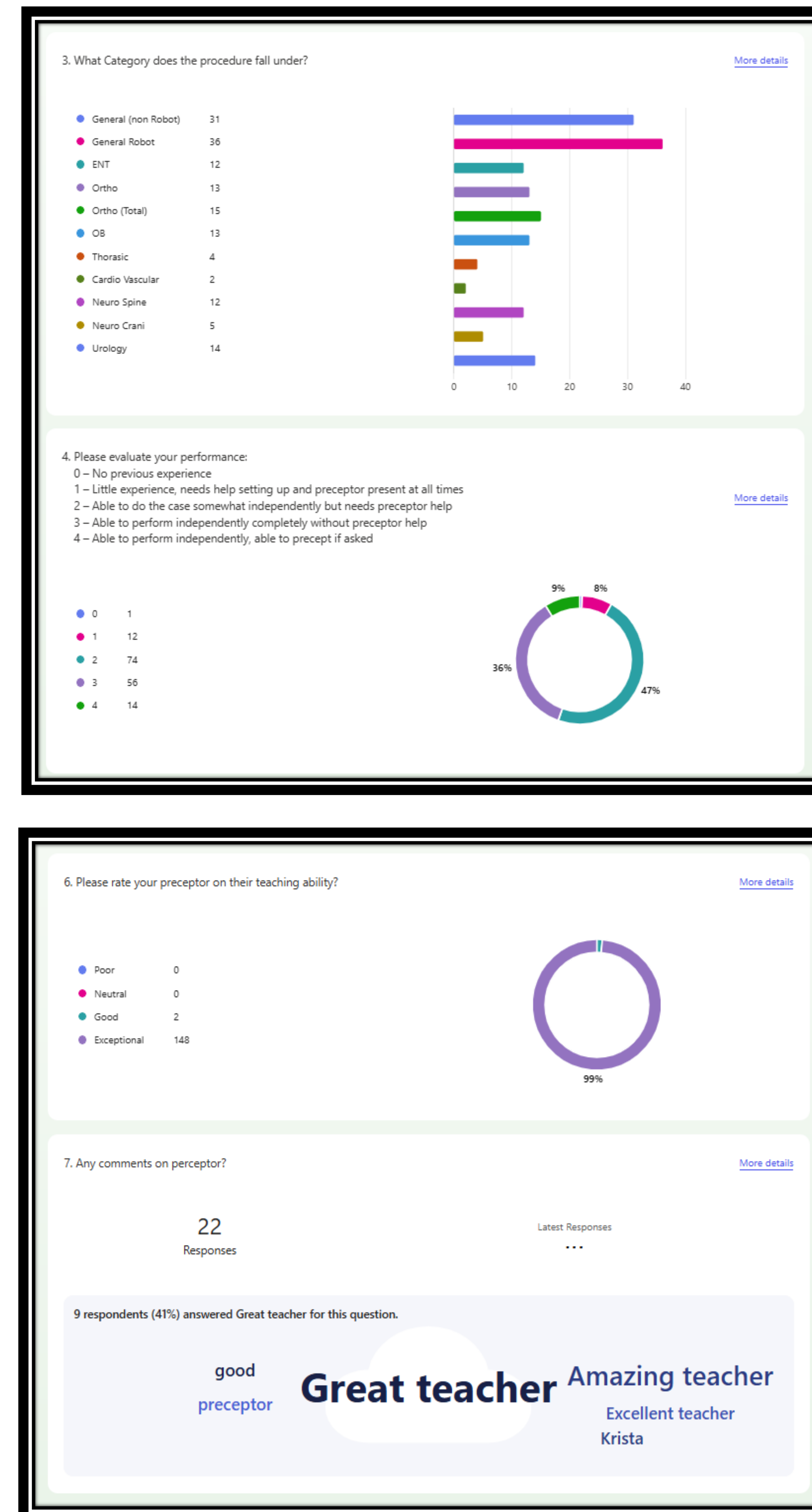
Poor

Neutral

Good

Exceptional

Example of audited results



OUTCOME

A supplemental survey was completed by nine Charge/Relief RNs, Coordinators, and the manager. The tracker received a 5-star rating, with comments such as:

- This helps identify what cases students need to work on.
- I loved ease of use. accurate data recording and self evaluation.
- The service lines are split up appropriately and easy to use.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PERIOPERATIVE NURSING

The use of QR tracker codes significantly improves the accuracy and timeliness of case documentation. With the Case Tracker, each staff member—whether a new RN, scrub tech, or TIP nurse—is assigned a unique QR code to log surgical case exposure. This allows real-time or end-of-day logging, reducing reliance on memory and minimizing transcription errors. By contrast, paper tracking is prone to delays, incomplete entries, and data loss. The QR system ensures that logs are consistently updated and accessible to leadership for auditing and training purposes.

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