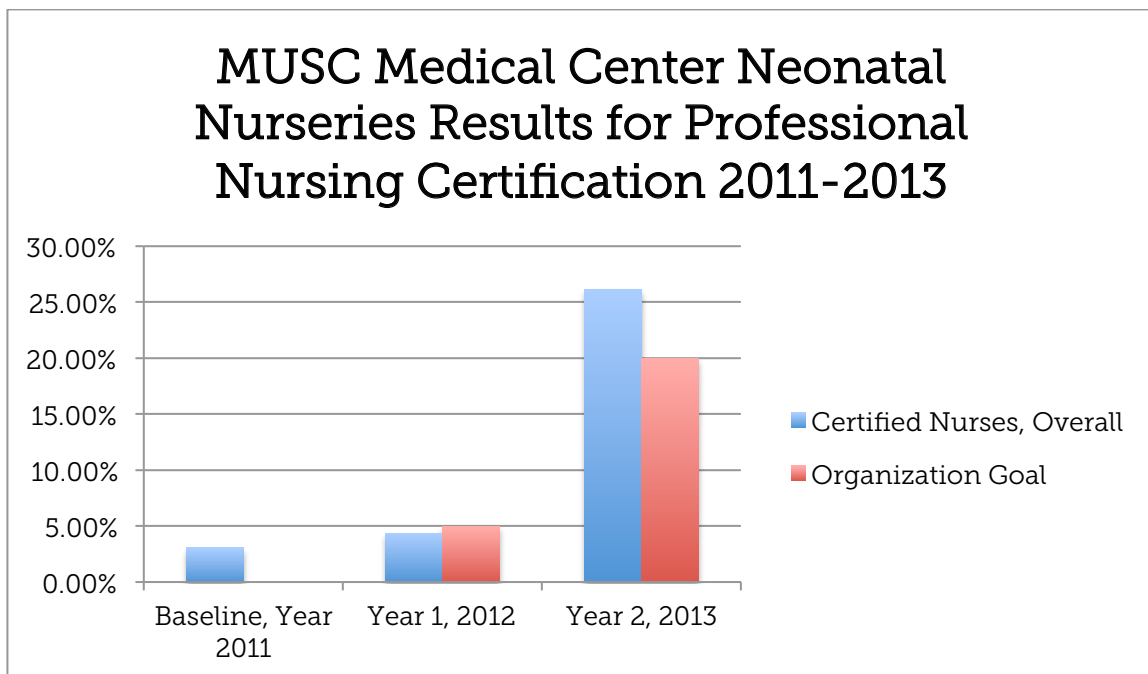


Expertise

Improving Neonatal Nurses Certification

Neonatal Nurseries Clinical Director MaryLaura Smithwick, MSN, RN, and Neonatal Nurseries Nurse Educator Sara Gayle McConnell, BSN, RN, RNC-NIC, assessed the certification rate of nurses in their nurseries in February 2013. The nurseries posted a modest certification rate of 8 percent with a total 12 certified nurses. Smithwick and McConnell knew certification was critical for empowerment and set a goal of 20 percent certification among their staff members.

McConnell focused on two unique initiatives to reach this goal. The first initiative encouraged intermediate care nurses to take the certification exam. The second initiative offered a paper test on campus since it was more convenient and helped nurses overcome computer test anxiety. These efforts produced an increase in unit level certification from just 8 percent in February 2013 to 28 percent in November 2013.



Certified Case Managers Optimizing Outcomes

The Case Management Division partnered with Low Country AHEC to present a two day course preparing registered nurses and social workers to become certified case managers. Since that time, five nurses and three social workers have become certified.

"This has changed our practice by validating the experience and knowledge base of the nurse case manager and social worker," said General Medicine Nurse Case Manager Jennifer Fox, MSN, RN, ACM. "The board-certified nurse case manager and social worker are better able to provide the right services to patients across the continuum of care, including those with serious or complex medical conditions and catastrophic injuries and illnesses. The certified case manager acts in an individual's best interest in a fragmented health care system to provide optimum value and desirable outcomes for all involved."