

# In Cardiac Patients, What is the Effect of Accurate I & O Documentation on Fluid Balance and Medication Administration Compared with Current Documentation Standards?



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#### Background

- Intake and output (I&O) measurement is the cornerstone assessment of fluid balance in cardiac patients
- Accurate documentation of these numbers are an important determination of treatment and length of stay
- Often measurements are inaccurate due to discrepancies between methods of recording

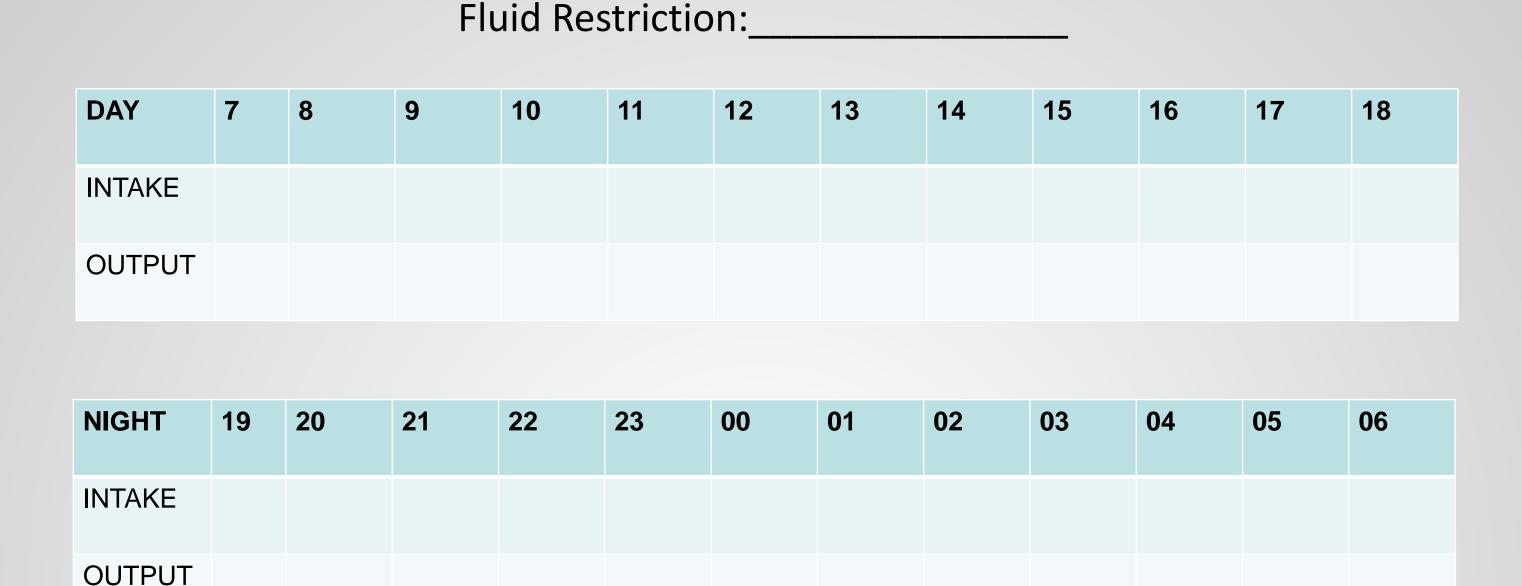
# **Practice Change**

A tool was developed and used to collect I & O data. The tool was compared to the current method of collecting I & O

#### Methods

- Pre-surveys were distributed to RNs
- I & O tool placed at bedside for utilization
- Post-surveys distributed after 3 weeks of tool implementation

## **Measures and Results**



Yesterday's weight (kg):\_\_\_\_\_ Today's weight (kg):\_\_\_\_\_

# Results

N = 16

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Accurate intake and output measurement is important	0%	6%	12.5%	0%	81.25%
Staff is compliant with I&O documentation.	6%	31.25%	43.75%	18.75%	0%
I am aware of how much fluid is in each cup size.	6%	6%	18.75%	31.25%	37.5
I find it easy to connect with nursing techs about patient orders.	6%	18.75%	25%	37.5%	12.5%
I feel that an I&O chart would be effective in a patient's room.	12.5%	0%	6%	25%	56.25%
Intake and output documentation is easy.	6%	6%	31.25%	31.25%	25%

#### Post-Survey

	Strongly Agree			
This tool was easy to use.	100%			
The use of this tool will increase compliance with I&O.	31.25%			
Incorporating this tool into my daily routine was easy.	81.25%			
This tool positively benefits the accuracy of fluid balance in heart failure patients.	100%			

## **Summary/Discussion**

- The results supported that the majority of nurses (81.25%) strongly agree that accurate I & O measurement is important
- Compliance with documentation is an area that will benefit from an increase in education and diligent practice
- Ease of use did not seem to be a negative factor when utilizing the I & O tool
  - 56.25% of those who were surveyed stated that they believed the use of this tool would be effective in the patient room.

#### Conclusion

- The majority of the nurses agree that it is important for physicians to have accurate fluid balance data on cardiac patients
- This data dictates how physicians adjust medication dosages, such as diuretics in conjunction with fluid restriction
- Education is needed to encourage participation and increase compliance
- Documentation fatigue is a factor when considering compliance percentage on the post survey

References