

## Background

Nurses play a key role in ensuring safe, high-quality care for patients (Fontaine et al., 2024). This is accomplished in part by evaluating and improving the quality, safety, and effectiveness of nursing practice (ANA, 2021). The Quality Council at Salinas Valley Health Medical Center meets monthly to evaluate benchmarked, nurse-sensitive data such as falls, hospital-acquired infections, hospital-acquired pressure injuries (HAPIs), workplace violence, patient experience, and nurse satisfaction. Identified trends of underperformance are referred to the relevant unit practice council (UPC) to develop an action plan with improvement strategies. During data review and follow-up discussions at Quality Council meetings in late 2023 and early 2024, the council leaders noticed that certain quality-related issues and concerns were brought up repeatedly. These often seemed to be related to nurses being unaware of best practices, or needing reminders about consistently implementing them.

## Purpose Statement

The purpose of this education initiative was to enhance awareness about quality and safety among nurses and other clinical staff to improve practice and patient outcomes.

## Methods

This initiative aligns with the purpose of the Quality Council which is to monitor, evaluate, and support organization- and unit-level goals related to nurse-sensitive Magnet data requirements. Council members act as quality consultants and educators to support improvement projects related to nurse-sensitive data. In March 2024, the Quality Council chair, co-chair, advisor, and the Magnet Clinical Excellence Specialist discussed possible reasons that certain quality-related issues and concerns came up frequently during their monthly meetings and determined a key reason seemed to be related to knowledge gaps. At the April 2024 Quality Council meeting, the group shared their observations with the rest of the Quality Council and asked for improvement ideas. The council decided an educational initiative was needed to address the issues, concerns, and knowledge gaps identified during their monthly meetings. Their aim was to enhance awareness about quality- and safety-related best practices. Since tailored educational materials and reminders have been shown to improve clinical practice outcomes (Fontaine et al., 2024), the team elected to develop a monthly educational flyer for nursing staff called *Quality Topics of the Week*.

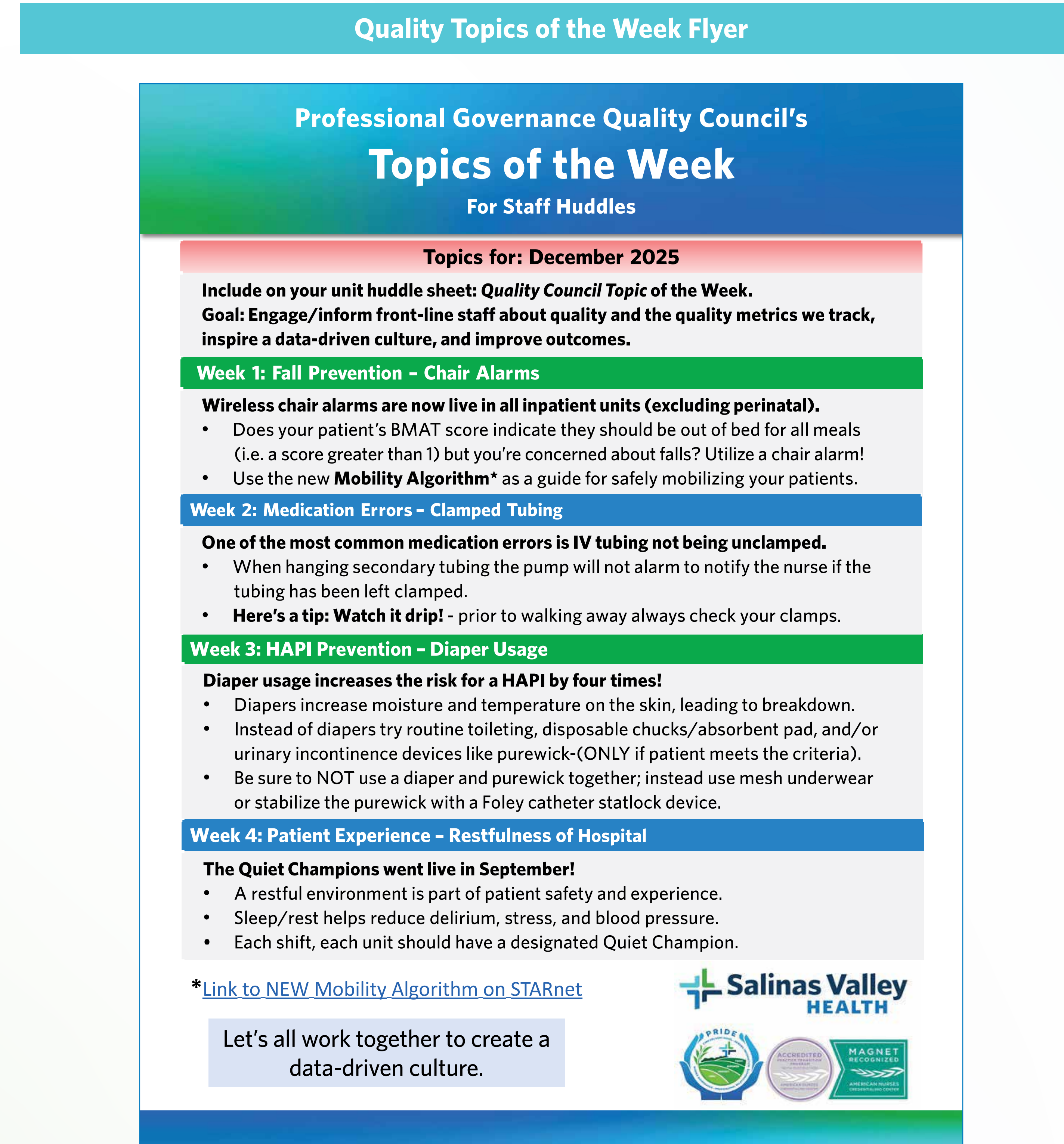
The process of creating the *Quality Topics of the Week* flyers involved the chairs listing any significant quality-related issues or concerns that came up during data review, report outs, and discussions at their monthly meetings. At the end of each meeting, the council reviewed the list of concerns and chose four topics to address in the next flyer. They decided on four topics so that one topic could be highlighted weekly on each monthly flyer. Each month a new *Quality Topics of the Week* flyer was sent to all nurse managers, educators, and professional governance leaders and advisors to disseminate and review with staff. The managers were asked to include the flyer on their Team TVs, include the weekly topics in their huddle sheets that charge nurses review with staff, and share in staff meetings. The monthly dissemination of the *Quality Topics of the Week* flyers began in May 2024. An example is provided in Figure 1.

To evaluate effectiveness, Quality Council members asked nurses in professional governance and on the units about their perceptions of the new educational initiative. In addition, Quality Council leaders analyzed data specific to measures addressed in the *Quality Topics of the Week* flyers, to evaluate if the measures improved after the educational flyers and reminders were disseminated to staff.



2026 Quality Council

Figure 1



Note. BMAT = Bedside Mobility Assessment Tool; HAPI = hospital-acquired pressure injury

## Results

As of December 2025, the Quality Council has disseminated 20 *Quality Topics of the Week* flyers, addressing a wide range of quality-related topics and identified knowledge gaps. Nurses from multiple areas reported appreciation for the educational information, tips, and reminders included on the flyers. Table 1 includes examples of feedback the Quality Council team received when they asked nurses for their perceptions about the effectiveness of the *Quality Topics of the Week* intervention.

Table 1

Nurses' Perceptions About the Quality Topics of the Week	
Nurse Role	Response
Critical Care UPC nurse	These flyers are a great way to bring important quality-related information to bedside staff to improve knowledge. They're quick and to-the-point.
Med Surg UPC nurse	The flyers include great reminders, especially when sharing new best practices that help us keep our practice current and up-to-date.
Quality Council leader	I hold a lead role on Quality Council and yet even I find there are quality or safety topics I didn't know about, so these flyers are definitely helpful.
Nurse Manager	It's now part of my practice to share the flyer on our Team TV and huddle sheet. I've received positive feedback from the nurses about the content.

Note. UPC = Unit Practice Council

Flyers distributed during July and August 2024 highlighted information related to patient falls and during the three subsequent quarters, the total patient falls rate improved from 1.09 in Q3 2024 to 0.98 in Q4 2024, 0.88 in Q1 2025, and 0.66 in Q2 2025 (see Figure 2). Flyers distributed during March to June 2025 highlighted best practices for HAPI prevention. During the subsequent quarter, the inpatient HAPI stage 2 and above (HAPI 2+) prevalence rate improved from 3.42 in Q1 2025 and 1.74 in Q2 2025 to 0.00 in Q3 2025 (see Figure 3).

Figure 2

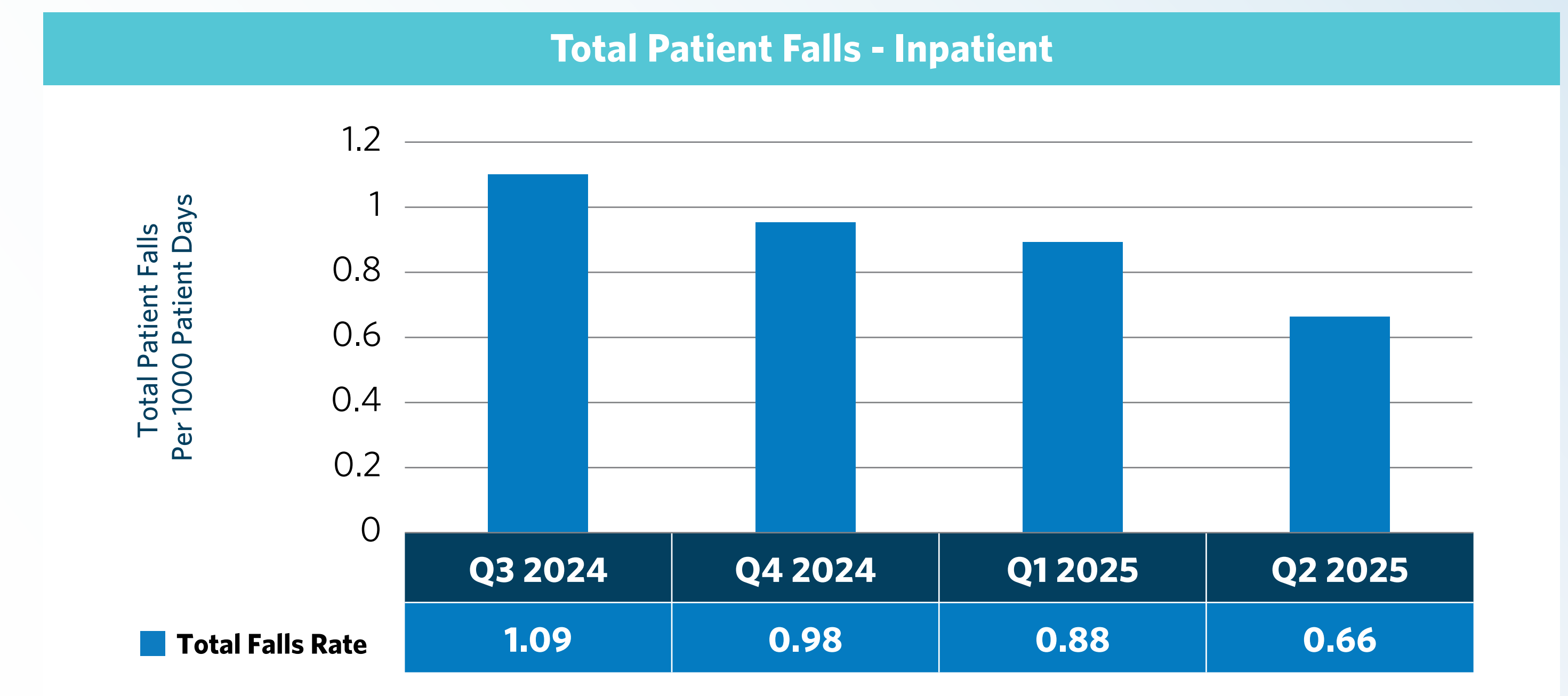
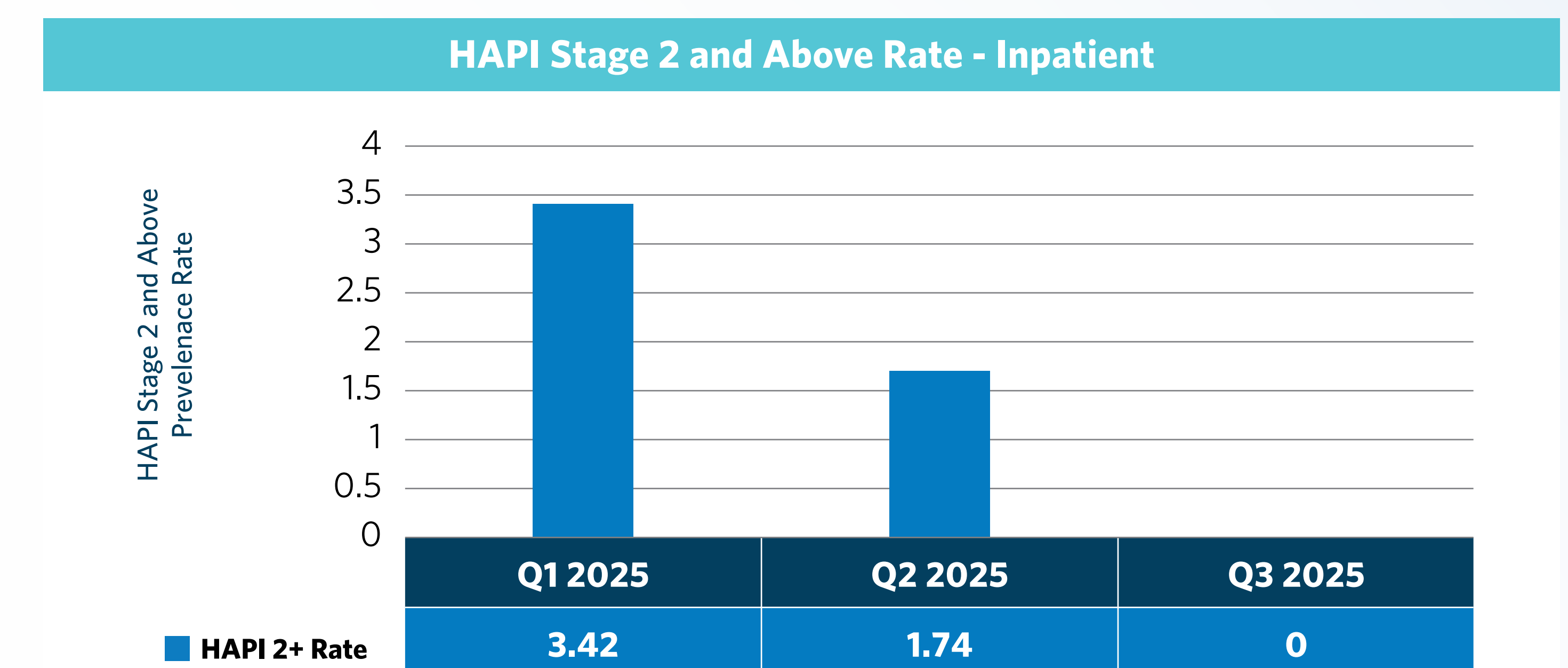


Figure 3



Note. HAPI = hospital-acquired pressure injuries

## Conclusions

The Quality Council's *Quality Topics of the Week* was implemented to share tailored, quality-related information to nurses and other clinical staff. Positive feedback was received from nurses about the intervention, and total patient falls and HAPI 2+ rates improved after these measures were targeted in the flyers. A limitation of this project was that we did not use a survey or formal assessment tool for measuring nurse perceptions and nurses' knowledge before and after implementation. Next steps include developing more in-depth educational materials when knowledge gaps and outcomes do not improve after being addressed in *Quality Topics of the Week* flyers.

## References

American Nurses Association. (2021). *Nursing: Scope and standards of practice* (4th ed.). Author.

Fontaine, G., Vinette, B., Weight, C., Maheu-Cadotte, M.-A., Lavallée, A., Deschênes, M.-F., Lapierre, A., Castiglione, S. A., Chicoine, G., Rouleau, G., Argiropoulos, N., Konnyu, K., Mooney, M., Cassidy, C. E., Mailhot, T., Lavoie, P., Pépin, C., Cossette, S., Gagnon, M.-P., & Semenic, S. (2024). Effects of implementation strategies on nursing practice and patient outcomes: A comprehensive systematic review and meta-analysis. *Implementation Science, 19*(1), 1-31.