

# Creative Transport Program Designed to Mitigate Nursing Shortage

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## Objective

During the Covid-19 pandemic there was a nationwide nursing shortage, which negatively impacted staffing at WVU Medicine. In efforts to support our nursing staff, our Patient Monitor Technicians (PMTs) were trained to assist with transporting step-down patients to and from testing allowing nurses to stay on the unit to effectively provide patient care to their other patients.



## Methodology

\*PMTs are trained Cardiac Monitor and Video Monitoring Technicians. PMTs trained with our current Central Transport team learning how to operate various hospital equipment, customer service, PPE and safe lifting techniques.

\*The transport request within EPIC was redesigned to choose a PMT as the primary transporter. Specific criteria was placed firing a warning for a patient that does not meet the PMT criteria.

\*Education was given to the ancillary testing departments and nursing units for requesting a transport with a PMT.

\*The PMT Transport role started February 15, 2022, with three Heart and Vascular Institute (HVI) units. Additional roll outs continued throughout the hospital over a five-month period.

## Transports Completed Per Month



## Results

Our first month we completed 106 transports. During the second and third months, our transports completed increased from 731 to 1,042. After 8 months, the PMT Transport program has completed over 1,700 transports.



## Conclusion

Since February 2022, PMTs have completed 9,340 transports with an average turnaround time of 23.55 minutes per transport. Overall, our PMT Transport program has saved 3,666 hours for nurses, allowing them to stay at the bedside to take care of their patients.

## Future Goals

- \*Nightshift coverage
- \*Weekend availability
- \*Children's Hospital

## Utilization of PMTs by Ancillary Departments

