



# Empowering Medical Assistants to Identify and Respond to Abnormal Vital Signs: An Educational Intervention

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## Background-Vital Signs

- Vital signs (VS) are measurements of the body's basic physiological functions
- Crucial to assessing patient health and wellbeing
- Rechecking vital signs is critical to optimal patient care
  - Identifying potential health issues (hypertensive emergency, arrhythmias)
  - Facilitate timely interventions



## CHASS Center

- Community-Based health clinic in Southwest Detroit
- Population are at high risk for conditions where vital signs monitoring is critical (e.g., hypertension)
- Problem: Low compliance with vital sign rechecking
  - 27.9% of patients attending clinic visits from June to July 2022



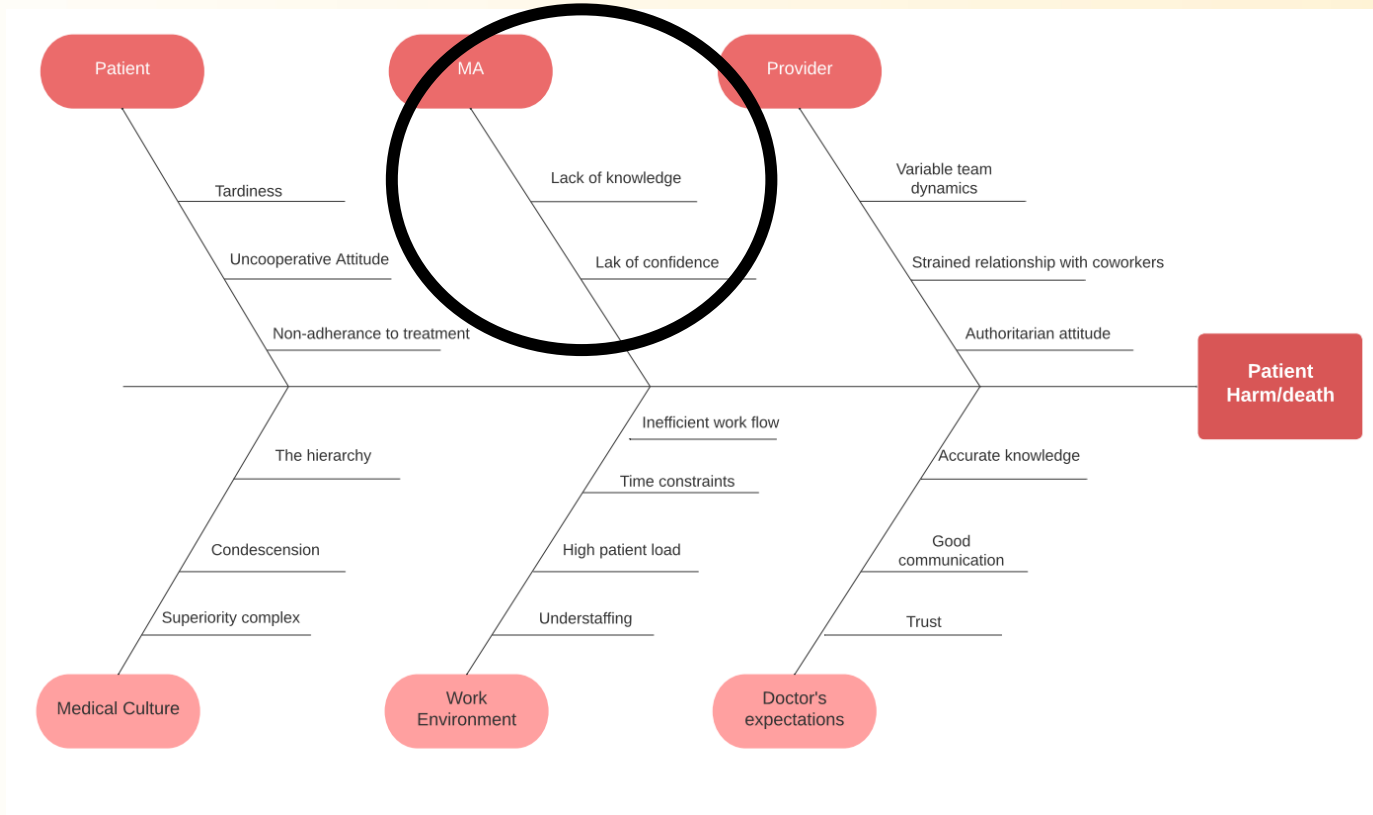


## Quality Improvement Initiative Objectives

- **Long-term:** vital sign rechecking = 100%
- **Short-term:** increase vital sign rechecking to 50% $\geq$

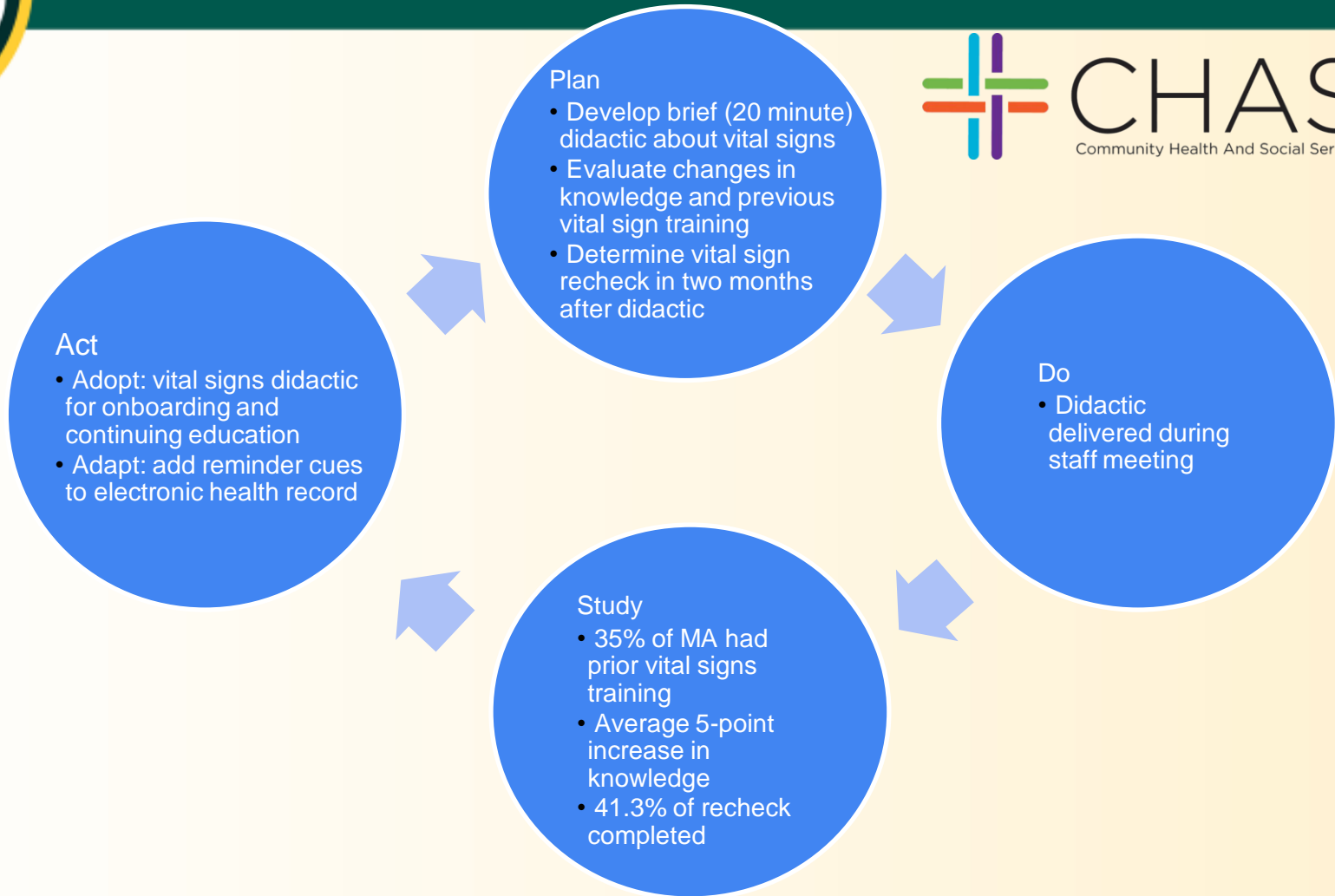


# Fishbone Diagram





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## Conclusions

- Brief didactic is feasible/effective at increasing knowledge of guidelines and protocols
- Additional intervention is needed to further increase vital sign recheck compliance



## Public Health Implications

- Verifying vital signs is crucial for appropriate medical care and identifying urgent/emergent conditions
- Regularly reviewing and rechecking vital signs optimizes clinical workflow across different settings
- Educating ancillary staff about vital signs and recheck guidelines improves patient care outcomes





Questions?