

# Radiation Oncology-Incident Learning System (RO-ILS): Operational Evolution within the Radiation Medicine Department

Katrina Aronoff, R.T(T), BS  
Roswell Park Cancer Institute  
ROC Niagara Conference 2019  
September 7, 2019



# Outline

- RO-ILS Mission and Introduction
- Training and Kick-off
- Results
- Discussion



# RO-ILS Patient Safety Organization – Clarity PSO and Clarity Group, Inc.



Founded in 2002

Healthcare resource specializing in the management of professional liability risk exposure, enhanced patient care quality, patient safety and quality initiatives

Created a National Incident Learning System for Radiation Oncology



# Radiation Oncology Incident Learning System (RO-ILS)

- Web based secure program that provides a global mechanism for collaborative learning within Radiation Medicine.
- Why does this benefit us?



# Radiation Oncology Incident Learning System (RO-ILS)

- Mission encourages all members to report events as they happen in the department in a non-punitive environment.
- Why is this important?



# Risks of Event Reporting

- Fear Factor
- Blame Game
- Limits potential for shared learning

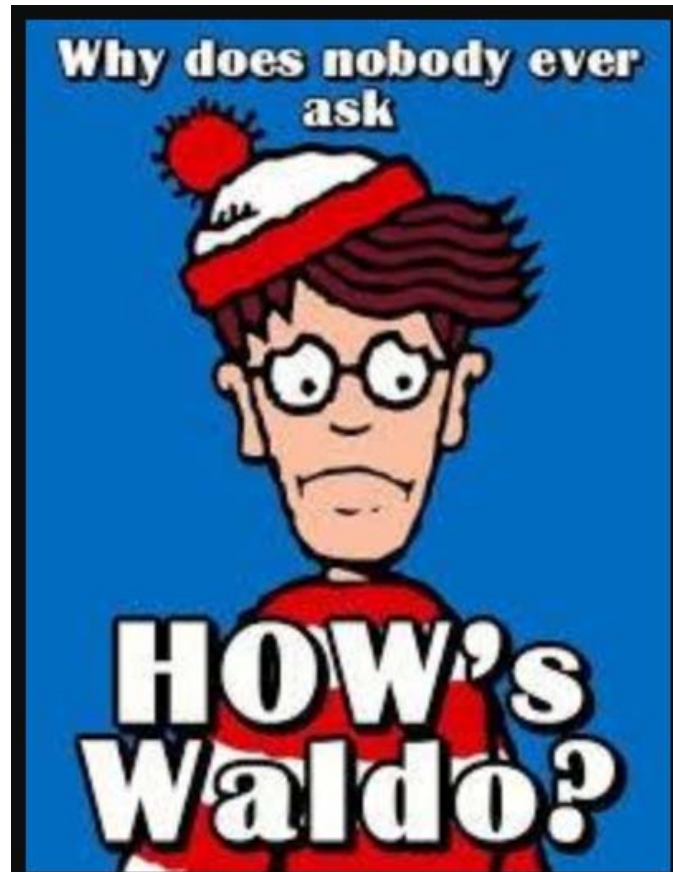


# Benefits of Event Reporting

- Increased reporting improves:
  - Patient safety
  - Staff safety
  - Identifies risks that can be mitigated before they cause patient harm



Not Who or What but Why and How may we prevent it?



# Safety Culture Components

- Culture of Safety
  - Culture of Learning
  - Culture of Justice
- 
- Does our current culture align with these components?



# Culture of Safety

- It is ok to talk about when things go wrong.



# Culture of Learning

- What happened?
- How can it be prevented in the future?
- A systems approach, not a persons approach.



# Culture of Justice

- Everyone in the department needs to hold themselves and each other accountable for making and sustaining safety and quality improvement efforts.



WILL IT BE EASY?  
NOPE. WORTH IT?  
ABSOLUTELY.

ELITE DAILY



**RO•ILS**

**RADIATION ONCOLOGY®**  
INCIDENT LEARNING SYSTEM

*Sponsored by ASTRO and AAPM*

# RO-ILS Training and Kickoff

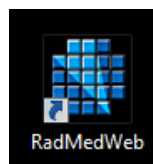


# 2017 RO-ILS Training and Kickoff

- RO-ILS launched September 2017 in our Multi-site Radiation Oncology Department following a decade of usage of an in-house system.



# Access for all staff at any site



Sign In

Username

username

Password

password

Sign In

Reset

Cancel

OR

Change Password

If you need assistance with the application, please contact the Application Support team at Clarity.

Call at 773.864.8298 or email [here](#)

Clarity Group, Inc. Copyright © 2019





**Overview** A national medical error reporting system and patient safety database for radiation oncology.

#### Announcements

**New** - RO-ILS User Meeting at ASTRO Annual Meeting: Tuesday, 9/17, 7:30-9am in Chicago, IL.

[Register to attend.](#)

**New** - Data Element for Replanning: [Learn more about Dosimetric\\_Change \(#232\).](#)

  
**Submit Event**

#### RO-ILS Program Information

[PSO Introduction and On-boarding Presentations \(Part I and Part II\)](#)

[Facility Request Form](#)

**NEW** - [Reviewer Request Form](#)

[Analysis Wizard Training Video](#)

#### RO-ILS Reports and Education

**NEW** - [Case Study 03: Incorrect Density Factor](#)

**NEW** - [Q3, Q4 2018 RO-ILS Report](#)

**NEW** - [Q3, Q4 2018 RO-ILS Report – Teaching Slides](#)

[Clarity Reference Guides](#)

[Ask a Question](#)

Please select a form to continue.



Select Form

Please select a form from the list below.

Event Form

Document Upload

For safety information not specific to an individual event that is for PSO reporting. Examples may include committee meeting minutes, analytical reports, investigation/conversation notes


[Back To Home](#)




 Save  Reset  Cancel

**NOTE:** Required questions marked with \*

\* **Location:**

Northwell Health 

\* **Sub Location:**

Please select Sub Location: 

\* **Additional Location:**

Please select Additional Location: 

**Event Classification:**

**Therapeutic Radiation Incident:** Radiation dose not delivered as intended, with or without harm

**Other Safety Incident:** Event that reached the patient, not involving radiation dose, with or without harm (examples: collision, fall, etc.)

**Near-miss:** A safety event that did not reach the patient

**Unsafe condition:** Any condition that increases the probability of a safety event

**Operational/Process Improvement:** non-safety event

\* **Event Classification:**



\* **Narrative:** (Briefly describe the event, 4000 character limit)



\* **Treatment Technique Pertinent to Event:** (Select all that apply)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2D                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrons                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Radiopharmaceuticals         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3D                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Intraoperative                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Total body irradiation (TBI) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IMRT/VMAT           | <input type="checkbox"/> kV x-rays (i.e. Orthovoltage and superficial) | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SRS/SBRT            | <input type="checkbox"/> LDR   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Particles (Protons) | <input type="checkbox"/> HDR   |   |






**Local Identifier:**



**Reporter's Name:**



\* **Date and time the event occurred:**

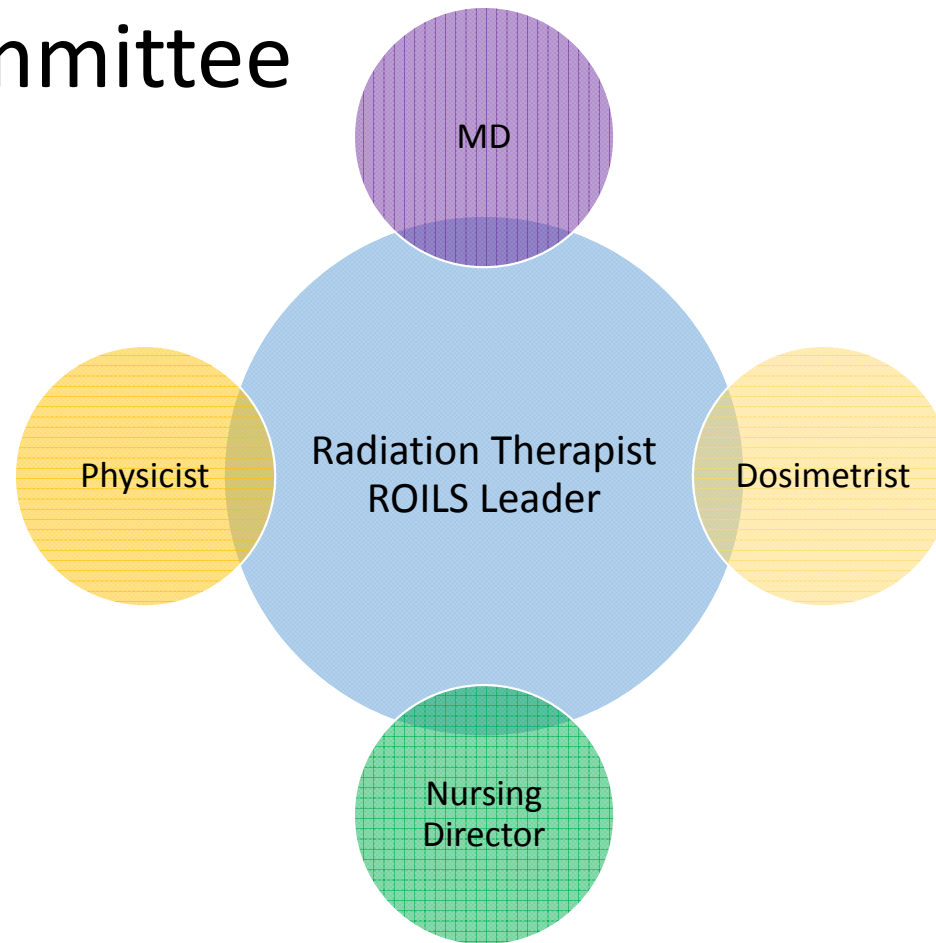
 Hour:  1 Min:  0  AM 

 Save  Reset  Cancel

- Therapeutic Radiation Incident
- Other Safety Incident
- Near-miss
- Unsafe Condition
- Operational/ Process Improvement



# RO-ILS committee





**Overview** A national medical error reporting system and patient safety database for radiation oncology.



#### Announcements

**New** - RO-ILS User Meeting at ASTRO Annual Meeting: Tuesday, 9/17, 7:30-9am in Chicago, IL.

[Register to attend.](#)

**New** - Data Element for Replanning: [Learn more about Dosimetric\\_Change \(#232\).](#)

Submit Event



#### RO-ILS Program Information

[PSO Introduction and On-boarding Presentations \(Part I and Part II\)](#)

[Facility Request Form](#)

**NEW** - [Reviewer Request Form](#)

[Analysis Wizard Training Video](#)

#### RO-ILS Reports and Education

**NEW** - [Case Study 03: Incorrect Density Factor](#)

**NEW** - [Q3, Q4 2018 RO-ILS Report](#)

**NEW** - [Q3, Q4 2018 RO-ILS Report – Teaching Slides](#)

[Clarity Reference Guides](#)

[Ask a Question](#)

[Change Form](#)Focus Group [Logout](#)

Current Form: Event Form

## My Review

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Closed	Submitted Start Date: <input type="text"/>	Event No: <input type="text"/>	Location: <input type="text" value="Northwell Health"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>
	Submitted End Date: <input type="text"/>		Sub Location: <input type="text" value="Please select a Sub Location"/>	<input type="button" value="Reset"/>
	Event Review: <input type="checkbox"/> Complete <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incomplete	Local Identifier: <input type="text"/>	Event Type: <input type="text"/>	
	Updated Since: <input type="checkbox"/>		Sub Event Type: <input type="text" value="Please select a Sub Event Type"/>	

- Home
- Time Frame
- Forms
- Event Type
- Primary Locations
- Result Set
- Sorting
- Columns
- Filter
- [Export To Excel](#)
- [Export To PDF](#)
- Graphing
- Create Saved Template
- Create Scheduled Report

## Analysis Wizard

**Date Option:** ☒ Submitted Date ☐ Event Date

**Start Date:**

**End Date:**

**Days:** ☒ Sunday  
☒ Monday  
☒ Tuesday  
☒ Wednesday  
☒ Thursday  
☒ Friday  
☒ Saturday

**Start Time:**  :  AM

**End Time:**  :  AM

Saved Templates Scheduled Reports

Form Name: Event Form

Reset Search Criteria

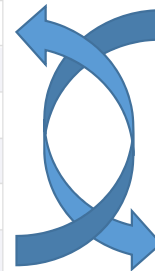
- Home
- Time Frame
- Forms
- Event Type
- Primary Locations
- Result Set
- Sorting
- Columns
- Filter
- Export To Excel
- Export To PDF
- Graphing
- Create Saved Template
- Create Scheduled Report

2061 Record(s) Found

Page Size:

100

Event Number	SubmittedDate	104.Classification	102.Location_Sub
1182	4/10/2014 3:34:27 PM	Therapeutic Radiation Incident	Long Island Jewish Medical Center (LIJ)
2196	2/5/2015 3:41:20 PM	Operational/Process Improvement	Long Island Jewish Medical Center (LIJ)
7378	11/21/2016 1:14:07 PM	Near-miss	Glen Cove Hospital (GC)
7381	11/21/2016 2:12:15 PM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
8103	2/8/2017 10:25:19 AM	Other Safety Incident	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
8105	2/8/2017 10:30:03 AM	Therapeutic Radiation Incident	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
8106	2/8/2017 10:33:25 AM	Therapeutic Radiation Incident	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
8107	2/8/2017 10:35:09 AM	Near-miss	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
8108	2/8/2017 10:37:24 AM	Near-miss	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
8109	2/8/2017 10:39:03 AM	Other Safety Incident	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
8110	2/8/2017 10:41:27 AM	Near-miss	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
8111	2/8/2017 10:43:46 AM	Other Safety Incident	Long Island Jewish Medical Center (LIJ)
8112	2/8/2017 10:45:47 AM	Other Safety Incident	Southside Hospital (SSH)
8113	2/8/2017 10:48:04 AM	Near-miss	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
8114	2/8/2017 10:51:15 AM	Therapeutic Radiation Incident	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
8115	2/8/2017 10:54:14 AM	Near-miss	Lenox Hill Hospital (LHH)
8119	2/8/2017 2:04:56 PM	Near-miss	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)

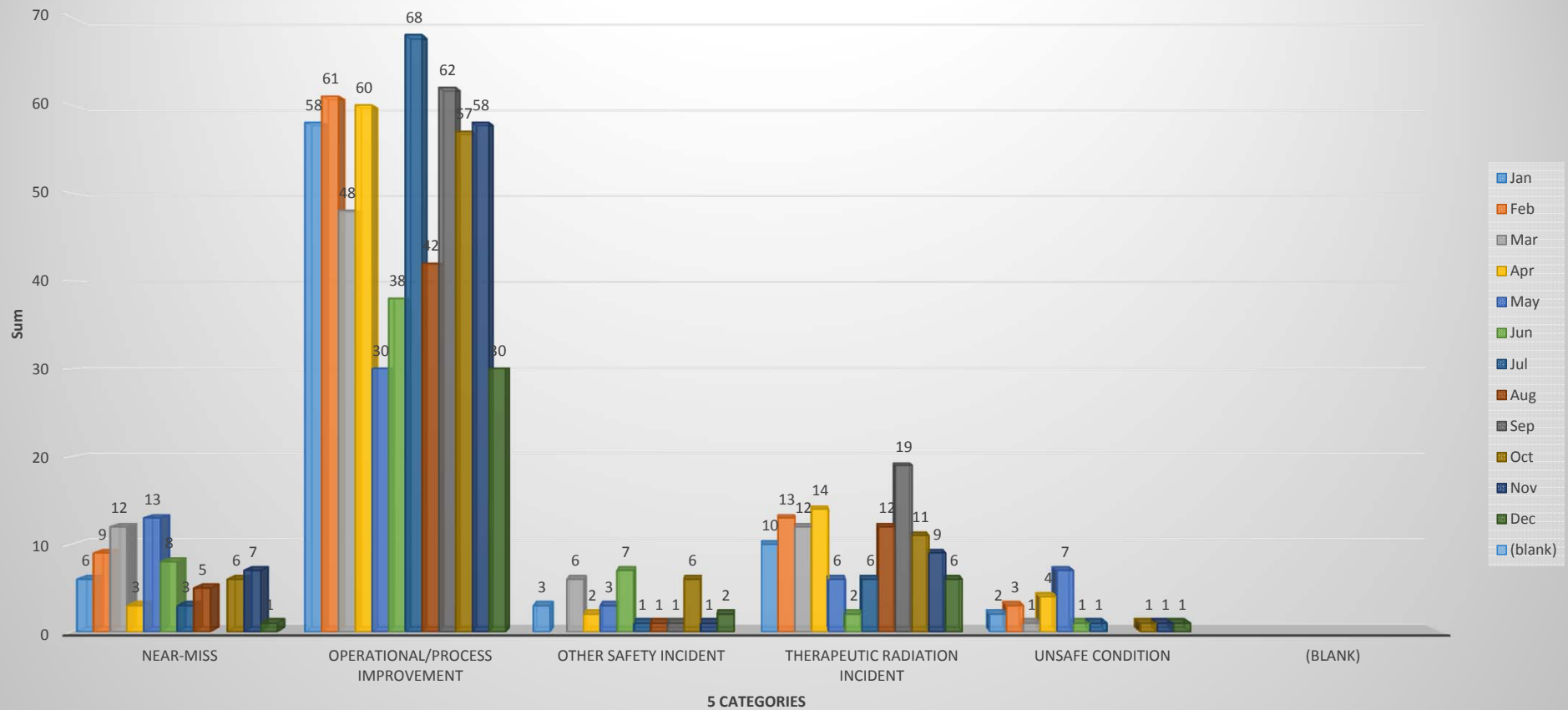


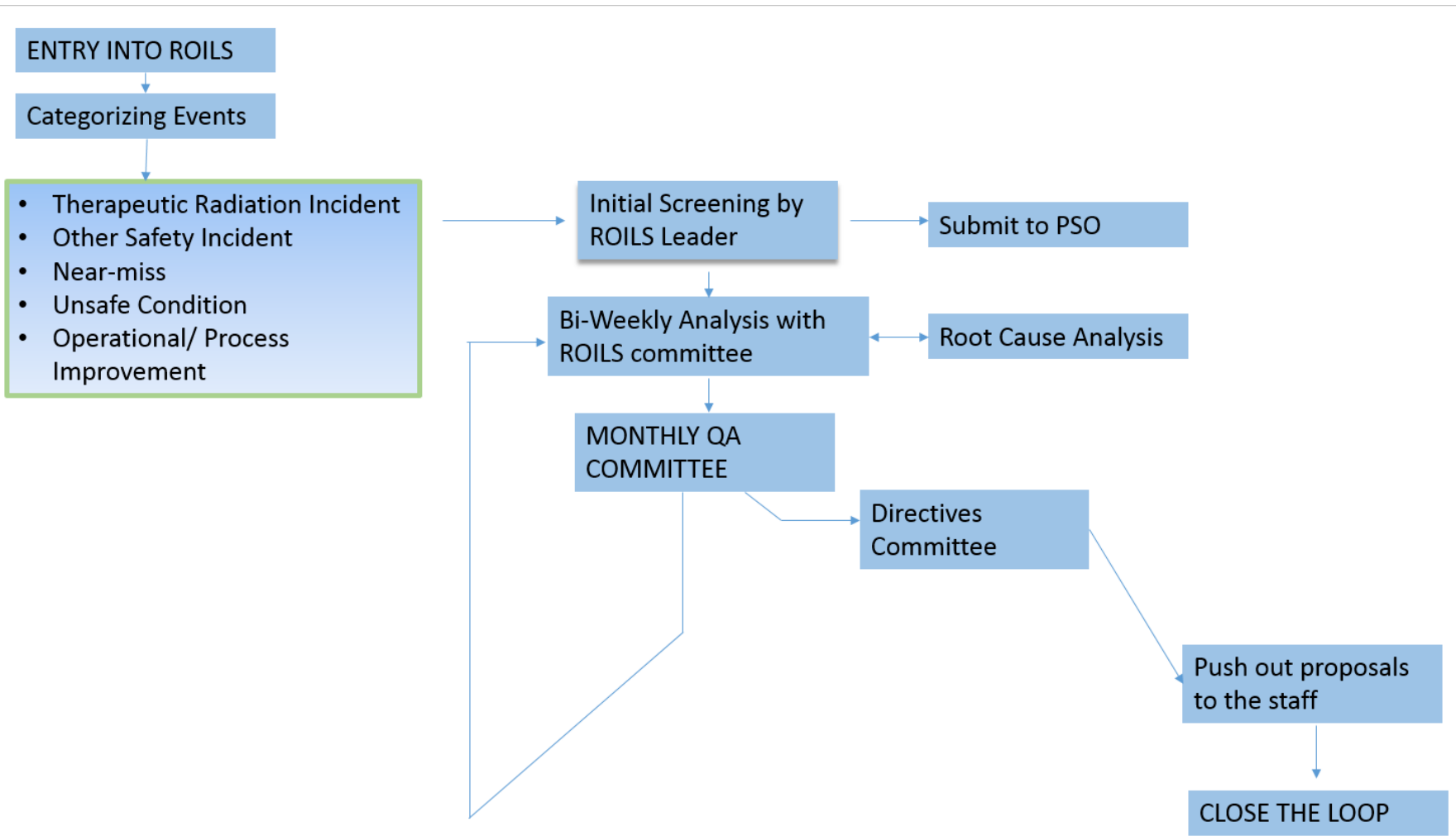
Excel spreadsheet showing data for the Event Form. The spreadsheet has columns for Event Number, SubmittedDate, 104.Classification, and 102.Location\_Sub. The data is sorted by Event Number.

Event Number	SubmittedDate	104.Classification	102.Location_Sub
26879	8/27/2019 7:56:51 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26867	8/26/2019 1:41:00 PM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26865	8/26/2019 1:12:42 PM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26864	8/26/2019 1:02:58 PM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26862	8/26/2019 12:27:16 PM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26860	8/26/2019 12:16:43 PM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26859	8/26/2019 12:14:09 PM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26855	8/26/2019 8:56:44 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Phelps Hospital
26854	8/26/2019 8:55:29 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Phelps Hospital
26853	8/26/2019 8:55:04 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Phelps Hospital
26852	8/26/2019 8:54:11 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Phelps Hospital
26851	8/26/2019 8:08:55 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Phelps Hospital
26824	8/23/2019 11:01:10 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Phelps Hospital
26822	8/23/2019 9:33:01 AM	Therapeutic Radiation Incident	Lenox Hill Hospital (LHH)
26800	8/22/2019 3:05:43 PM	Operational/Process Improvement	Phelps Hospital
26684	8/20/2019 10:28:10 AM	Near-miss	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26669	8/20/2019 8:42:19 AM	Unsafe condition	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26653	8/19/2019 2:49:03 PM	Therapeutic Radiation Incident	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26634	8/19/2019 6:43:40 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26616	8/16/2019 12:04:45 PM	Other Safety Incident	Phelps Hospital
26615	8/16/2019 11:58:30 AM	Other Safety Incident	Phelps Hospital
26597	8/16/2019 8:37:15 AM	Unsafe condition	Long Island Jewish Medical Center (LIJ)
26595	8/16/2019 6:38:26 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Long Island Jewish Medical Center (LIJ)
26594	8/15/2019 6:24:19 PM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26593	8/15/2019 6:20:42 PM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26580	8/15/2019 11:27:43 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26579	8/15/2019 11:23:21 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26578	8/15/2019 11:18:03 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26577	8/15/2019 11:11:36 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26552	8/14/2019 1:27:11 PM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26542	8/14/2019 11:17:56 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Lenox Hill Hospital (LHH)
26541	8/14/2019 10:58:20 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26498	8/13/2019 1:05:00 PM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26496	8/13/2019 1:00:55 PM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26475	8/13/2019 9:18:47 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26467	8/12/2019 4:34:35 PM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26466	8/12/2019 4:32:47 PM	Operational/Process Improvement	Center for Advanced Medicine (CFAM)
26442	8/12/2019 1:26:50 PM	Operational/Process Improvement	Lenox Hill Hospital (LHH)
26427	8/12/2019 8:43:00 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Phelps Hospital
26426	8/12/2019 8:42:29 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Phelps Hospital
26425	8/12/2019 8:41:59 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Phelps Hospital
26424	8/12/2019 8:41:30 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Phelps Hospital
26423	8/12/2019 8:40:54 AM	Operational/Process Improvement	Phelps Hospital
26373	8/9/2019 8:47:51 AM	Near-miss	Long Island Jewish Medical Center (LIJ)



## January to December 2018 RO-ILS Categories





# Why break the event Sub Type down further?

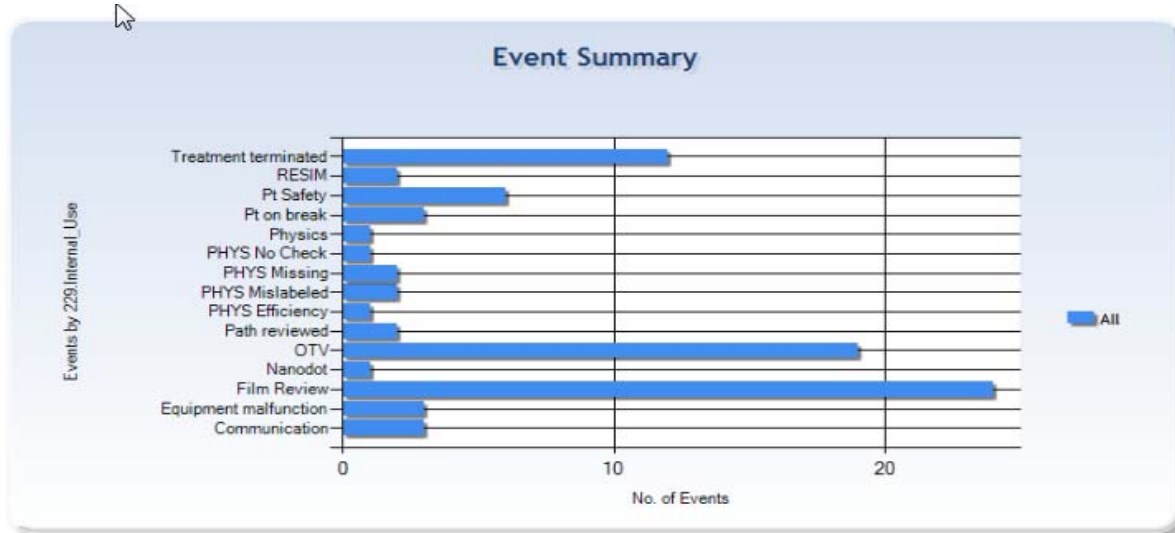
<input type="checkbox"/> Select All	Event Sub Type
<input type="checkbox"/>	Therapeutic Radiation Incident
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Safety Incident
<input type="checkbox"/>	Near-miss
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unsafe condition
<input type="checkbox"/>	Operational/Process Improvement

# Example – Sept 2018



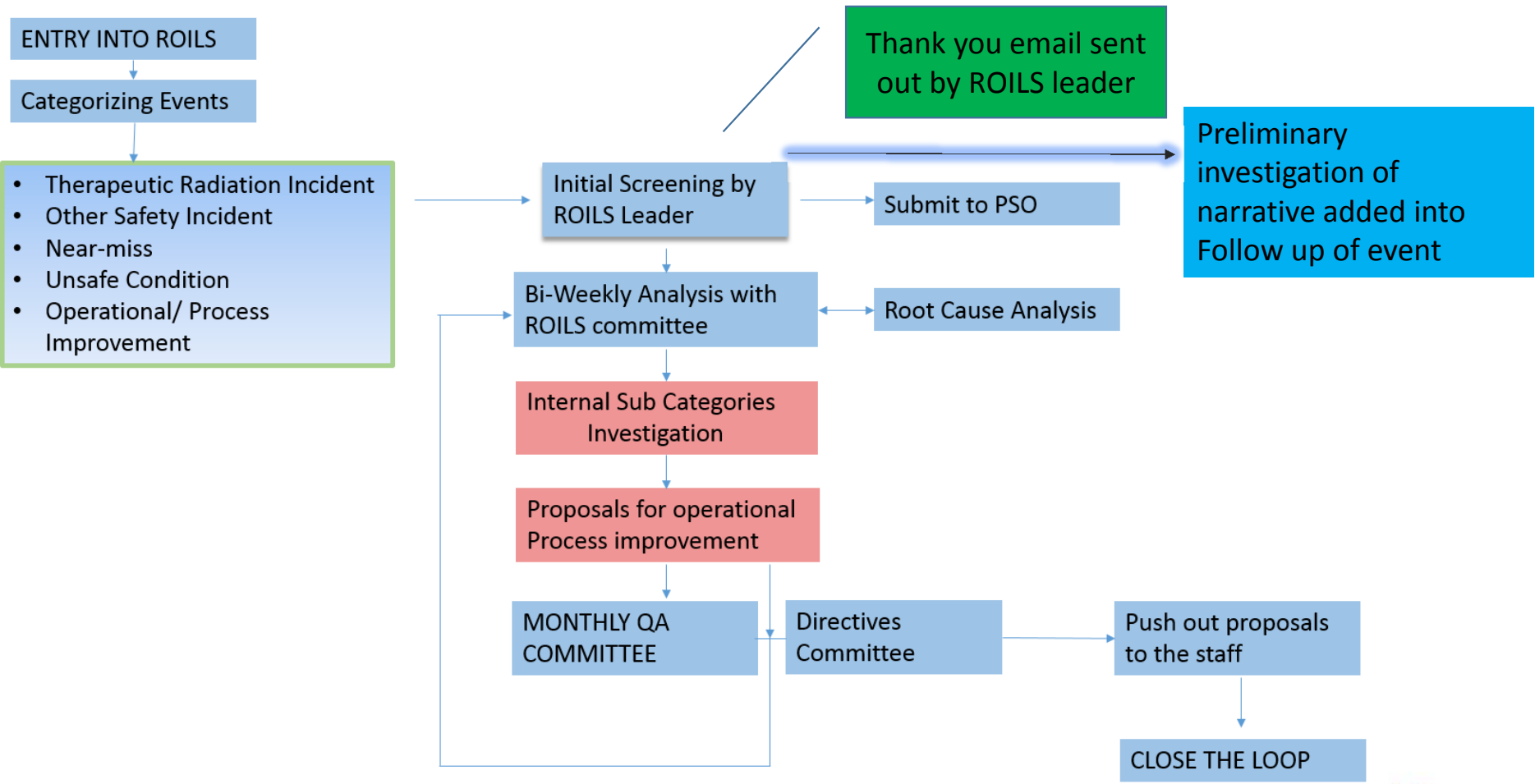
Name	Count
Operational/Process Improvement	62
Other Safety Incident	1
Therapeutic Radiation Incident	19
Total	82

Clarity Group, Inc. Copyright © 2018



Name	Count
Communication	3
Equipment malfunction	3
Film Review	24
Nanodot	1
OTV	19
Path reviewed	2
PHYS Efficiency	1
PHYS Mislabeled	2
PHYS Missing	2
PHYS No Check	1
Physics	1
Pt on break	3
Pt Safety	6
RESIM	2
Treatment terminated	12
Total	82

Same month – more data to report out – more opportunity for operational process improvements





# Mindsets that we embrace - Why we do what we do.

- Patient Safety
- Compassion and Teamwork
- Communication



# Patient Safety



COMPASSION

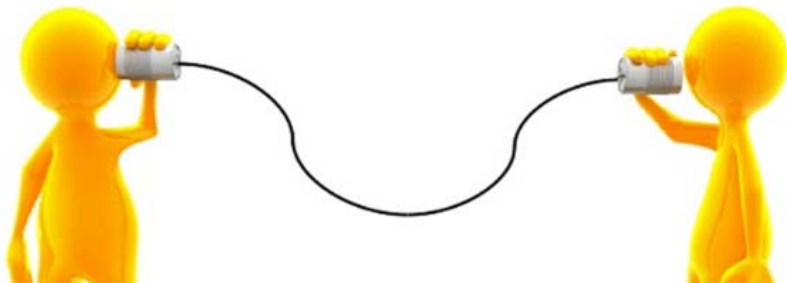


TEAMWORK



# How do we communicate?

- Verbally
- Email
- Note?



# What happens when the ball gets dropped?

- Easy to point fingers BUT is it easy to report an event you were apart of?

# What is the point of us reporting an event?

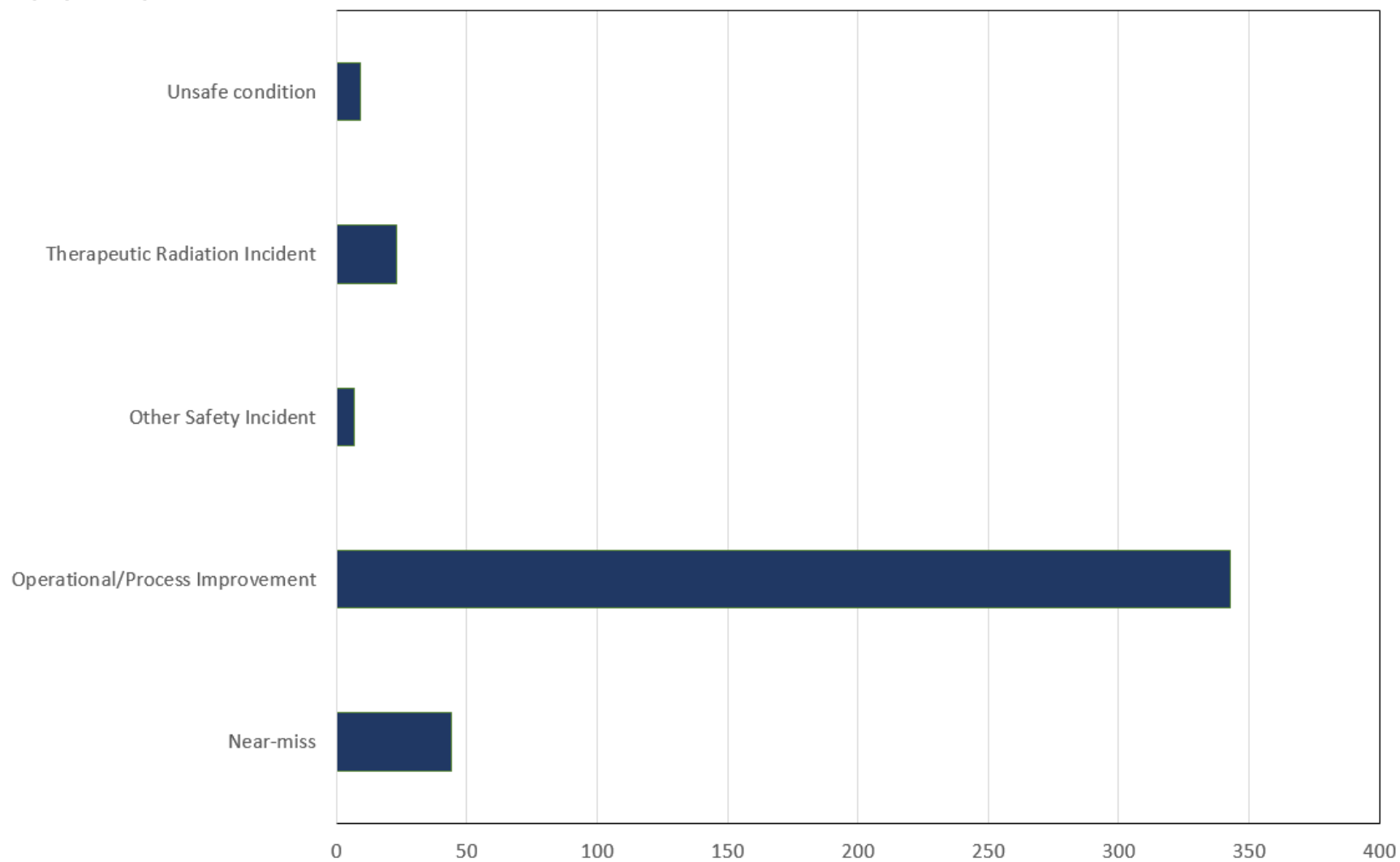


# What do we see more of?

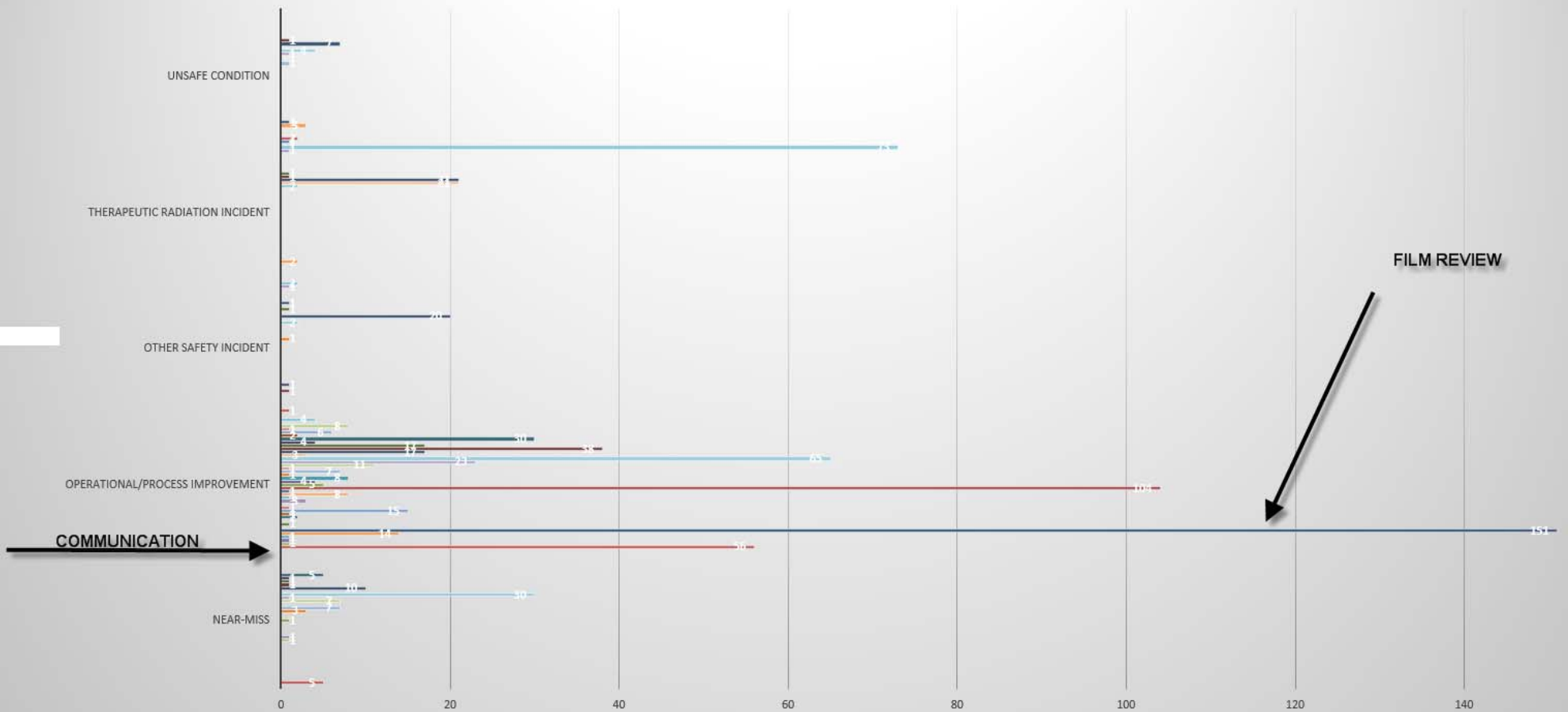
- Communication – ball gets dropped
- Staff injuries
  - Lifting patients
  - Short staffed
- Daily Films – CBCT, KV, portal images not checked by MD
  - Must be checked/approved before next treatment – safety issue and billing issue

# RESULTS

Events reported by RTT 2018



# Events Entered by Radiation Therapists 2018



# 426 Events reported in 2018 from Radiation Therapists

- Implemented several operational changes in 2018.
- This enables team members the ability to feel that their voices are heard and that we are working together to develop and expand operational processes.



# RO-ILS Reporting & Changes Implemented

1. Communication
2. Staff Safety
3. Film Review

1. Work with Chiefs and Dosimetrists to communicate if patients are changed to another machine during planning
2. Patient safe handling community developed and patient lifting equipment acquired
3. Implementing peer-to-peer feedback. Accountability. Number of events decreased going into next quarter.

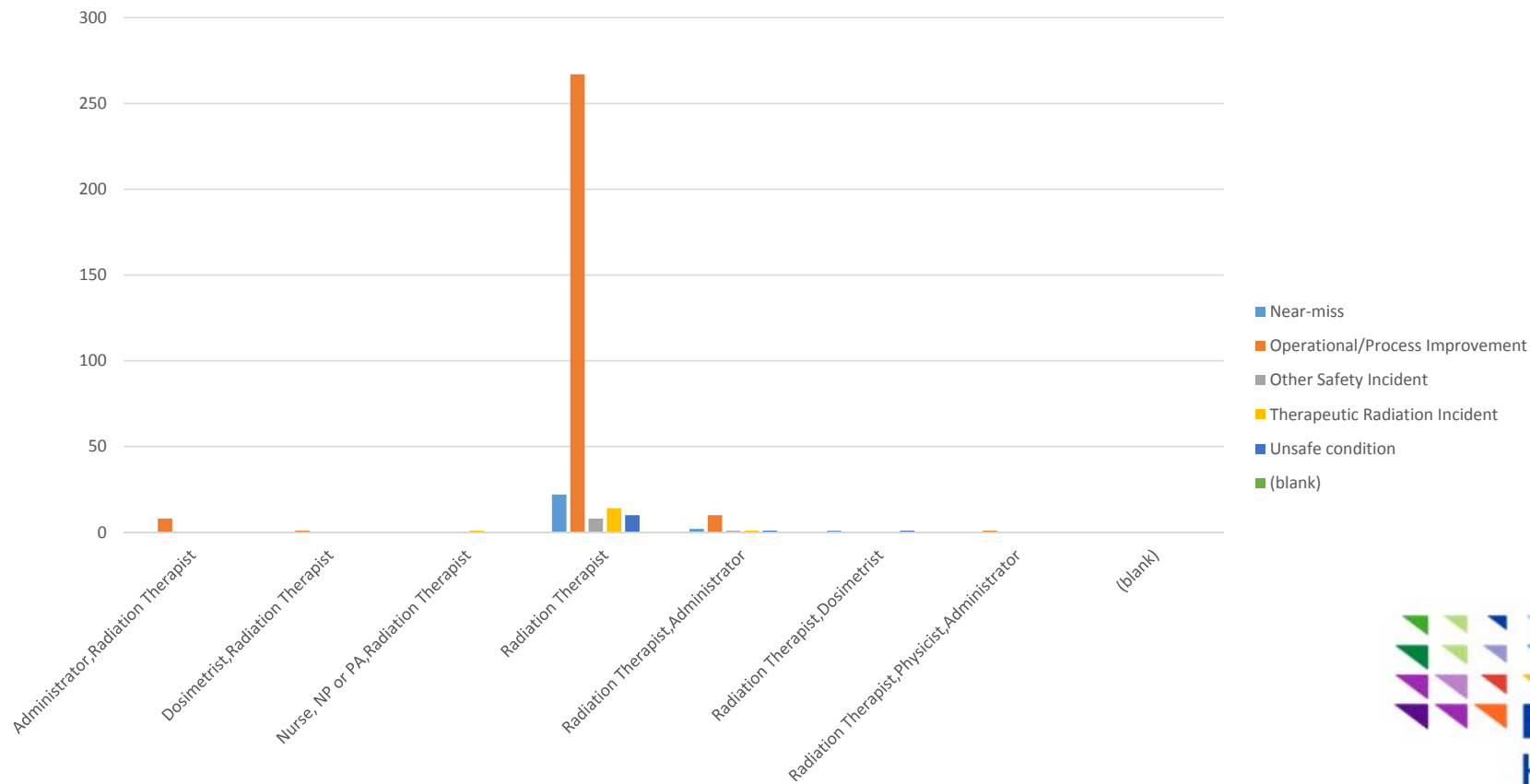


# We hear you...

We have observed reinvigorated enthusiasm in staff members as a direct result of this program.



# From Jan 2019 - Aug 2019, Therapists have reported 349 events out of 641 events in RO-ILS



# DISCUSSION

## Why we embraced RO-ILS

- Operational Learning
- How each RO-ILS event may help us learn as a team?



How we can change the culture?



# Encourage a culture of safety

- Allow staff to take a pause when something seems “off”.
  - Formalize a “code phrase” for staff to use when they are concerned an error may be taking place, without alarming the patient.
  - **“I Need Clarity”**
  - Help them stop the line.
- 
- Remember - Dialogue and Communication



# How we can change the culture?

- If an incident or near miss does occur, use that as a *teaching moment* to see what *could have been done to prevent* the error and ***what can be done in the future.***
- Focus on the process, not the people when discussing root cause analysis.

# Rounding -

- Leadership asked therapists for suggestions on how processes could be improved to minimize the error pathway.

# How we close the loop?

- Brief
- Debrief
- Team Huddle

# Community rich in patient focus

- Strive for excellence by embracing and enabling change within our field.



# Conclusions

- With each event entered, our Multi-site, Multi-faculty Radiation department compares, tracks and trends each event in pursuit of improving Operational Processes within our departments. This mission has helped shape a rich environment of growth, increase in efficient workflows and patient safety.



# Acknowledgements

Jeff Antone, CMD

Adam Riegel, PhD

May Lim, MD

Gayle Somerstein, RN

Louis Potters, MD



# References

1. ASTRO Targeting Cancer Care. <https://www.astro.org/Patient-Care-and-Research/Patient-Safety/RO-ILS>.
2. RO-ILS Education. Aggregate Date Report. Retrieved from [https://www.astro.org/ASTRO/media/ASTRO/Patient%20Care%20and%20Research/PDFs/RO-ILS\\_Q3-Q4\\_2018\\_Report.pdf](https://www.astro.org/ASTRO/media/ASTRO/Patient%20Care%20and%20Research/PDFs/RO-ILS_Q3-Q4_2018_Report.pdf)
3. ASTRO.2018 Aggregate Report Patient Safety Work Product. Retrieved from <https://www.astro.org/Patient-Care-and-Research/Patient-Safety/RO-ILS/RO-ILS-Education>
4. Emergency Physicians Monthly (2014)– The No-Interruption Zone (<http://www.epmonthly.com/features/current-features/the-no-interruption-zone/>)
5. Google images.  
[https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1GCEA\\_enUS817US821&tbm=isch&q=embracing+change&chips=q:embracing+change,g\\_1:positive:BSIYbDey5GY%3D&usg=AI4\\_-kR3Ot5holPFvvK5BtxFLJSeK2mJag&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjvINW40qPkAhXlxFkKHTGbCYUQ4IYILSgC&biw=1536&bih=750&dpr=1.25&safe=active&ssui=on#imgsrc=ZY2IZID6K55HjM:](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1GCEA_enUS817US821&tbm=isch&q=embracing+change&chips=q:embracing+change,g_1:positive:BSIYbDey5GY%3D&usg=AI4_-kR3Ot5holPFvvK5BtxFLJSeK2mJag&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjvINW40qPkAhXlxFkKHTGbCYUQ4IYILSgC&biw=1536&bih=750&dpr=1.25&safe=active&ssui=on#imgsrc=ZY2IZID6K55HjM:)
6. Mardon RE, Khanna K, Sorra J, Dyer N, Famolaro T. Exploring relationships between hospital patient safety culture and adverse events. J Patient Saf. 2010;6(4):226-232. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.gov/pubmed/21099551>
7. Piotrowski T. Introduction and history of patient safety organizations: the formation of a national safety culture. Williams TR, Ford EC, eds. *Quality and Safety in Radiation Oncology: Implementing tools and Best Practices for Providers, and Payers*. New York, NY: Demos Medical; 2017:251-259.



Thank you

