



**CIRCLE  
OF EXCELLENCE 2025**



**Brian C. Cunningham**

**Circle of Excellence**

Brian Cunningham is an assistant unit director at University of California, San Francisco Health. Brian identified patient safety risks during admission of critically ill cardiac patients from outside hospitals. The challenges to safely transfer a patient with high-risk

vasoactive and sedative medication infusions required a seamless process to ensure medication interruptions were prevented. His project evaluated implementation of a protocol that captured patients' essential information and standardized communication among teams to optimize medication readiness for these high-risk transfer admissions. Protocol adherence was 84%. After six months, nurse perception of medication readiness prior to patient arrival increased from 14% to 90%; prior to arrival, weight and allergy entries increased from 22% to 57% and from 16% to 56%, respectively; and medication overrides decreased 39% to 16%. Brian's recent transition to assistant unit director has helped him expand advocacy and support for patients and the team.