Heads Up!

Too big, too small or as expected

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PROBLEM

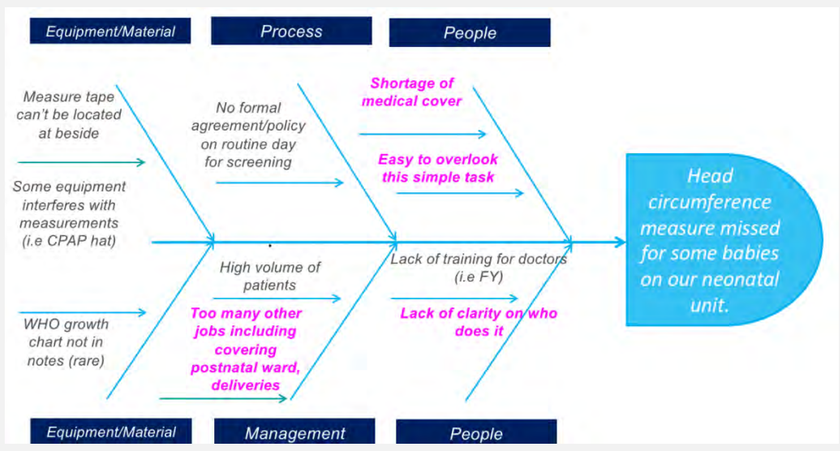
On our neonatal unit, we are **not measuring and plotting weekly head circumferences** regularly.

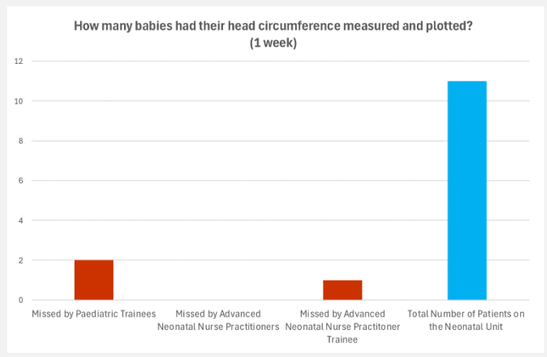
We are currently **missing up to three babies** each week.

If we miss warning signs, babies' are at **risk of brain damage** and life changing events.

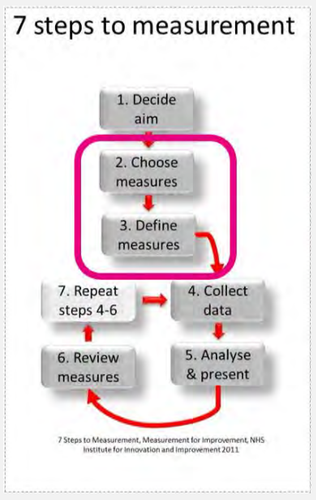
DIAGNOSTICS

Pre-ward round review (opportunity to obtain the head circumference → At consultant led ward round (opportunity to obtain the head circumference) → Post ward round (opportunity to obtain the head circumference) → Head circumference measured and plotted in the growth chart → Parents and clinicians reassured/alerted to a risk and acted appropriately





AIM & MEASUREMENT DEFINITION



Aim
By end of February 2024, the team will be aware every week of any baby who's head circumference is too big or too small and take appropriate action

Chosen measure
Number of babies where head circumference is measured, plotted, discussed at Multidisciplinary Meeting and actioned each week.

Scoring system for measure:
0=head circumference not measured and plotted
1=head circumference measured and plotted
2=head circumference measured, plotted and discussed at Multidisciplinary Meeting
3=head circumference measured, plotted, discussed at Multidisciplinary Meeting and action taken (including reassuring parent if normal)

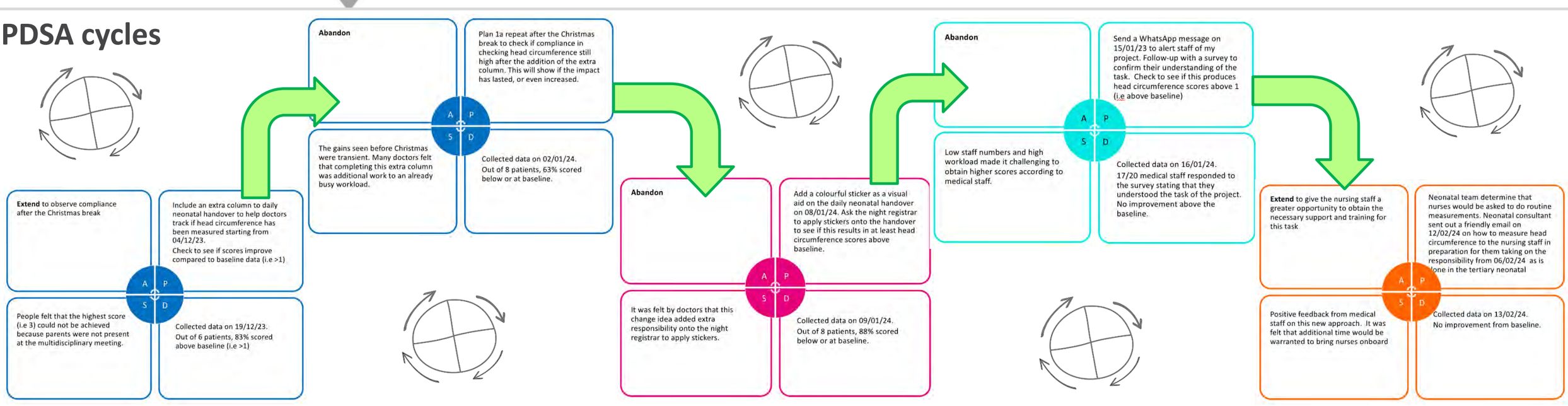
Inclusions
All term and preterm babies
Singleton and twin births
Born locally or at different neonatal units and then transferred to our unit

Exclusions
None

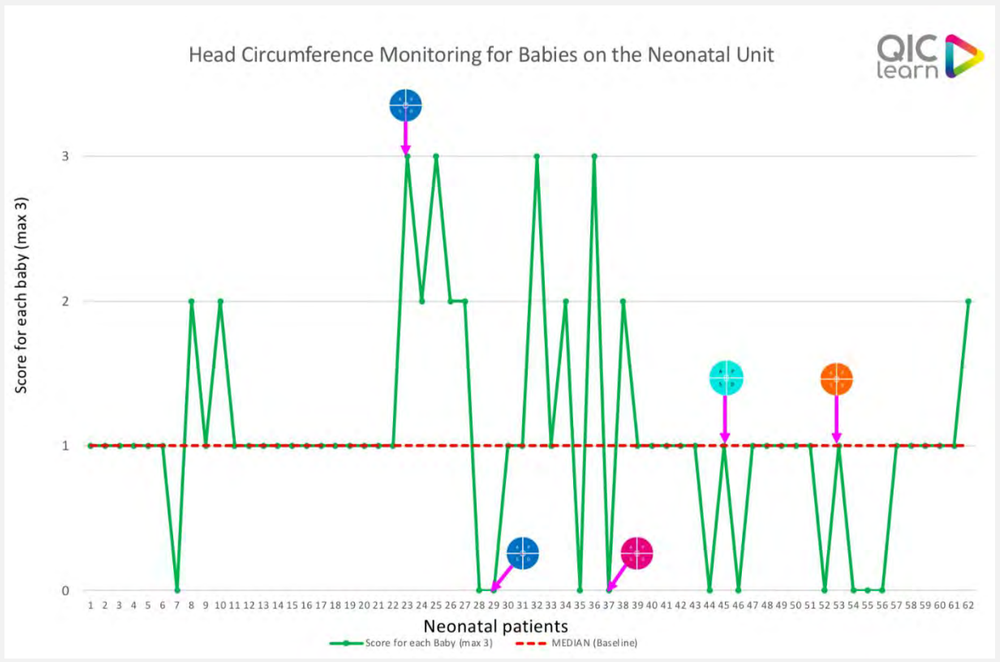
CHANGE IDEAS

1. Add an additional 'measurements' column on the daily neonatal handover
2. Use visual aids (stickers on handover) as a reminder.
3. Send a WhatApp message to alert staff to check measurement and check understand with a follow-up survey.
4. Email the team to remind them of the importance of weekly growth parameters
5. Encourage parents to attend Tuesday MDT to hear (and participate) in the discussion of their baby's growth parameters and medical management
6. Set up a mandatory field(s) on the electronic record system (epic) to capture weekly growth parameters
7. Shift the responsibility of measuring weekly head circumference from the medical to nursing staff.

PDSA cycles



RUN CHART



CHALLENGES & LEARNING:

- As demonstrated by my run-chart, no single simple idea would make a impact without it being implemented well and supported by the medical team
- Earlier encouragement for other team members i.e nursing staff could have been useful
- More engagement with families early on should have been a key focus

REFLECTIONS:

- Invest time exploring the aim you want to achieve rather than listing solutions to a problem
- It is not possible to create effective change ideas without sharing ideas with others
- Inspire others to improve care on the neonatal unit – one baby's head at a time