



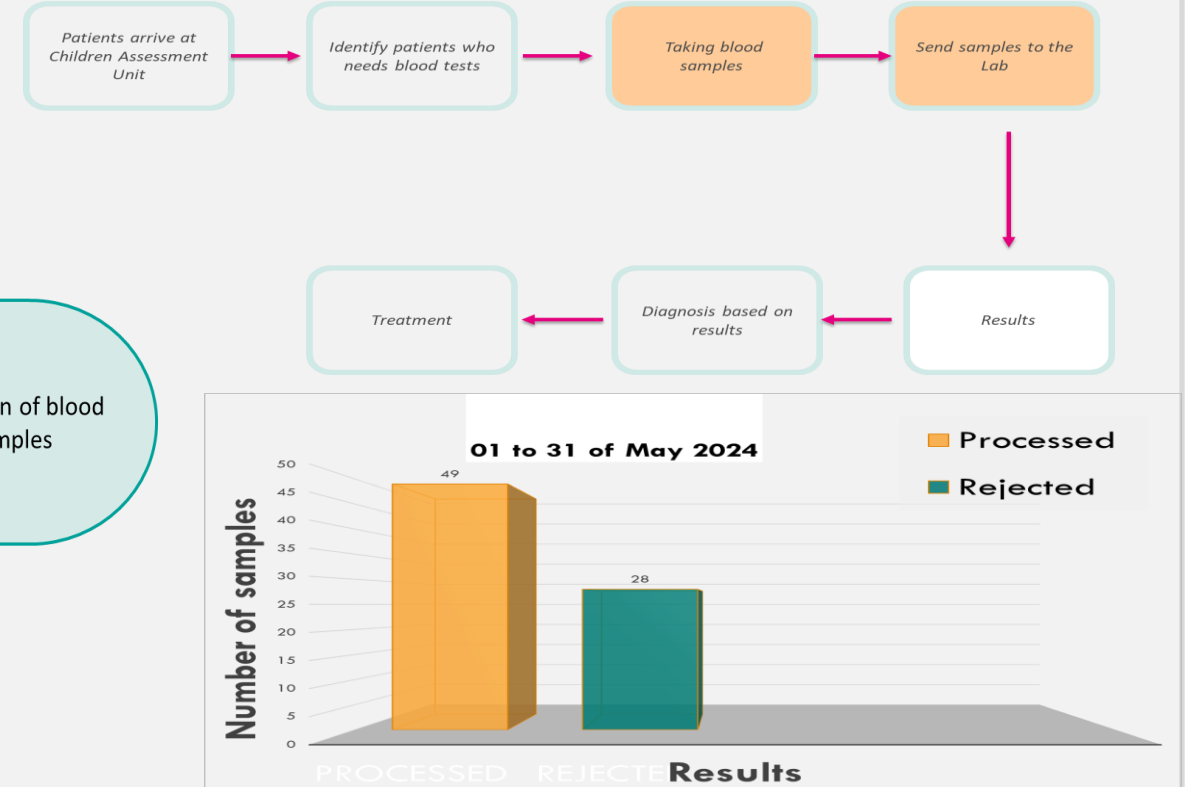
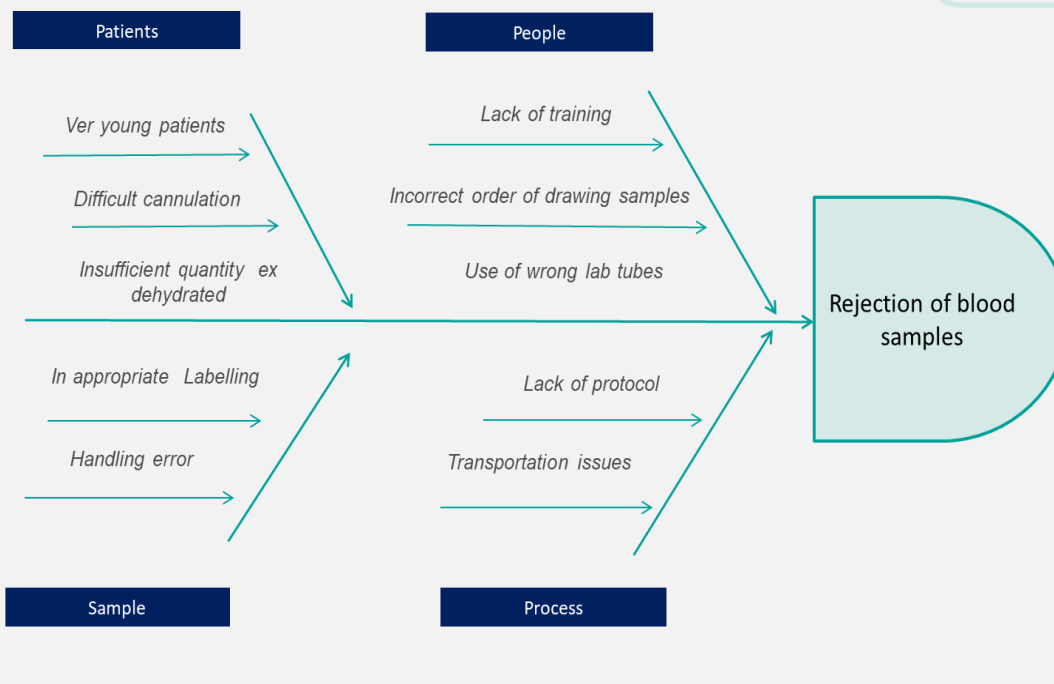
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Blood samples from children are often rejected by the lab. This necessitates repeating the samples, which causes additional work for staff, distress for children, and delays in care.



DIAGNOSTICS



Aim

By the end of August 2024, at least 6 out of 10 blood samples from Infants less than 1 month old in the Children Assessment Unit will be successfully processed on the first attempt

Measure

Number/Percent of blood samples that were rejected by the lab .

Inclusions

Blood samples that were taken from Infants less than 1 month old
Weekly data collection from the electronic lab results software

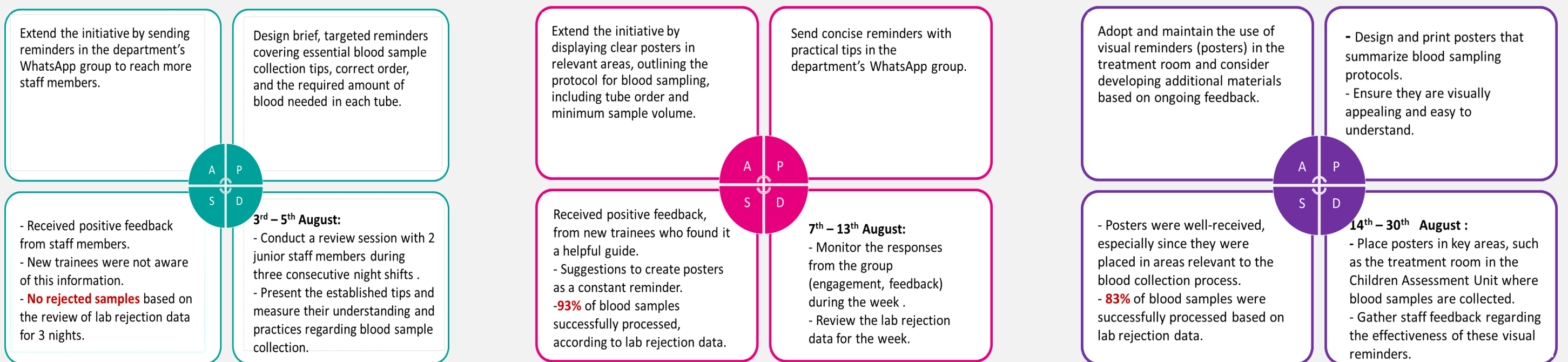
Exclusions

Blood samples from children aged more than 1 month old

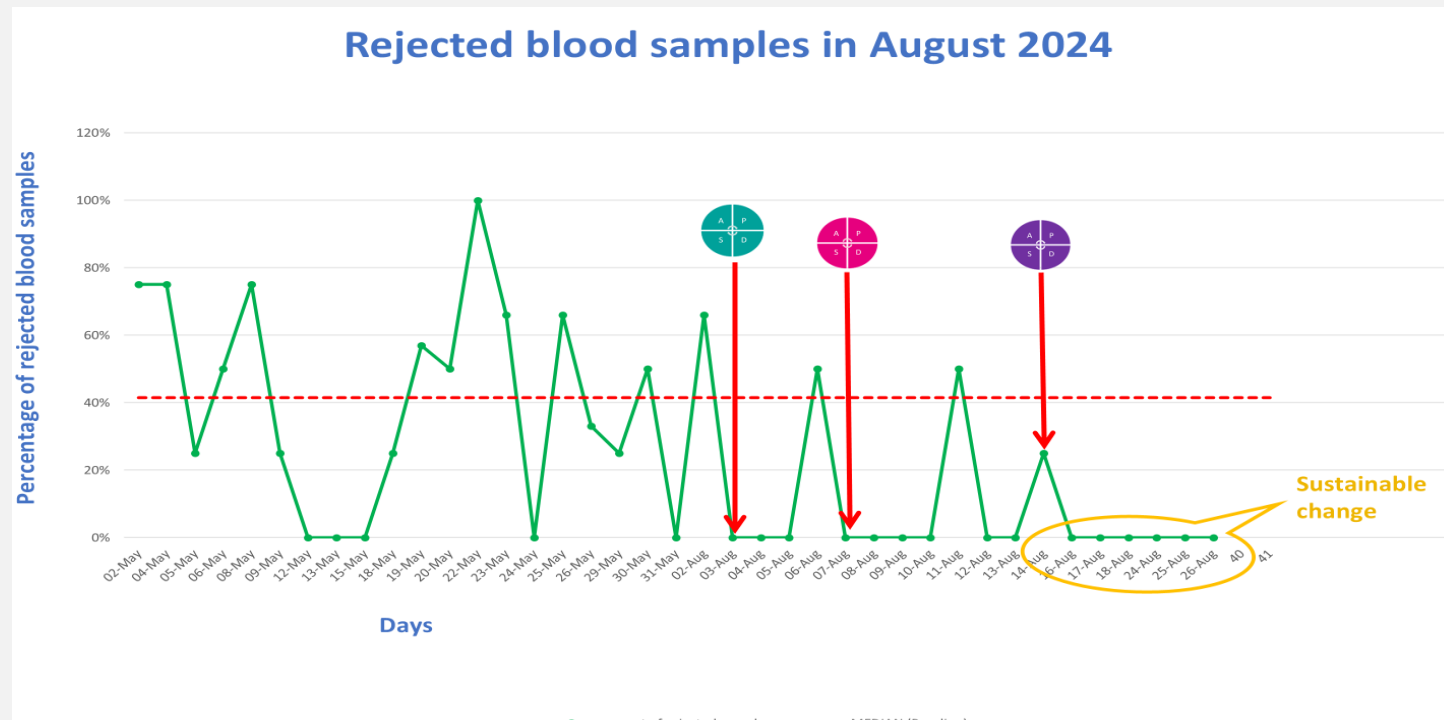
CHANGE IDEAS

- Enhance Staff Training** : Conduct training sessions every four months for junior doctors, particularly those rotating in, focusing on best practices for collecting blood samples .
- Develop a Standardized Blood Collection Protocol** : Create a clear, step-by-step protocol for capillary blood samples in infants less than 1 month old (e.g. correct order of tubes and the minimum blood volume required for accurate analysis).
- Implement a Pre-Sample Collection Checklist**: to ensure all necessary steps are followed before sample collection, including verifying patient identification, confirming the sample type, and proper labeling.
- Improve Communication and Handover Process** : Establish clear communication protocols during shift changes to ensure all staff are informed about pending samples and the urgency of processing them in a timely manner.

PDSA cycles



RUN CHART



REFLECTIONS & LEARNING

The project exceeded its goal of 60% successful blood samples, achieving **83-93%** through small PDSA cycles.

We earned that targeted reminders and posters can be effective, but maintaining improvements without constant oversight can be challenging.

The Model for Improvement helped us test and refine changes successfully. To ensure lasting success, we will focus on integrating these changes into daily routines and encouraging staff ownership to sustain progress.

