

Prescribing Paracetamol Promptly Post-operatively in PICU



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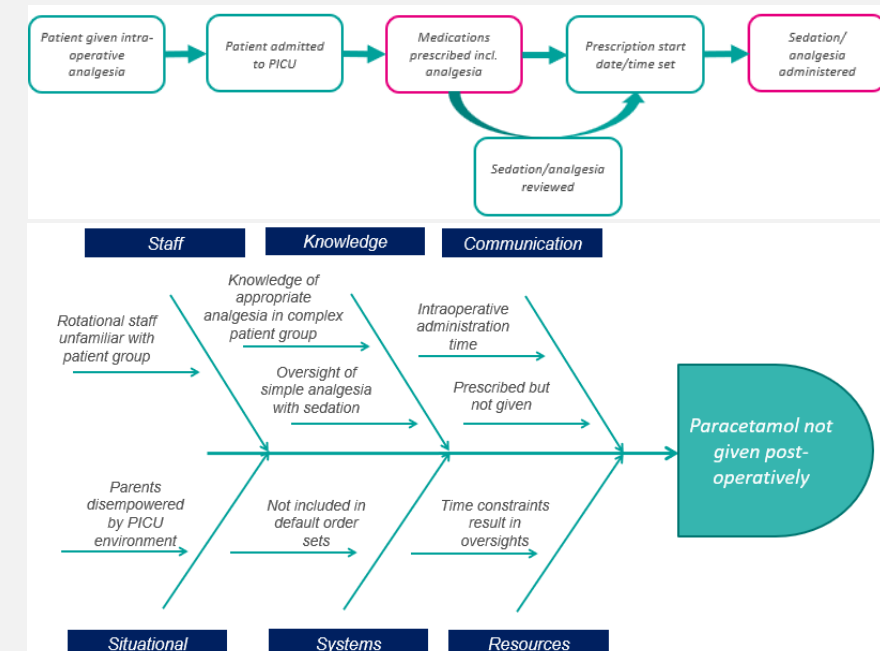
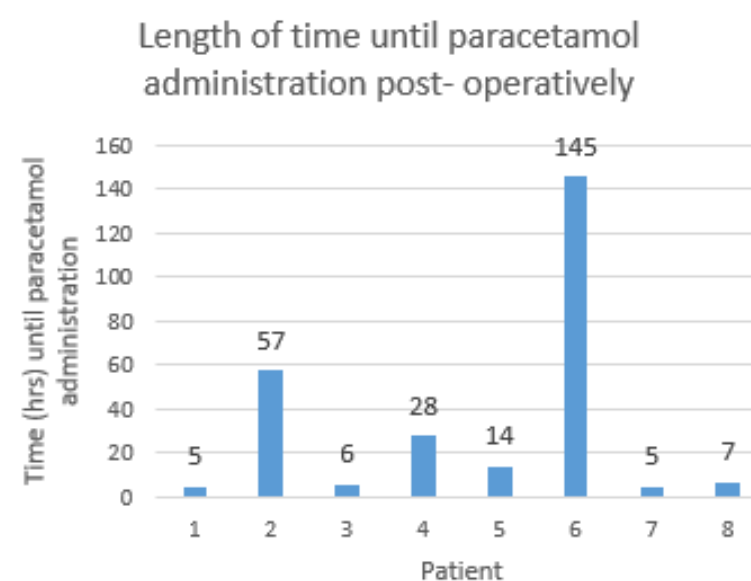
BACKGROUND

PROBLEM:
Postoperative patients in Paediatric Intensive Care are not promptly given paracetamol. This results in unnecessary pain and slow post-operative recovery which is distressing for the patient, parents and caregivers.

It's 2am on PICU:

"Doctor, the child in bed 3 is very agitated. Their morphine was stopped today. I think they're in pain from their surgery 2 days ago. They don't have paracetamol prescribed"

DIAGNOSTICS



AIM & MEASUREMENT DEFINITION

Aim: By September 2023, the time to paracetamol administration for post-operative PICU patients will be ≤6hrs

Chosen measure: Time from admission to PICU to paracetamol administration

Inclusions: Patients admitted to PICU post-operatively

Exclusions:

- Children <2m
- Children not requiring any pain relief
- Children already admitted to PICU pre-operatively

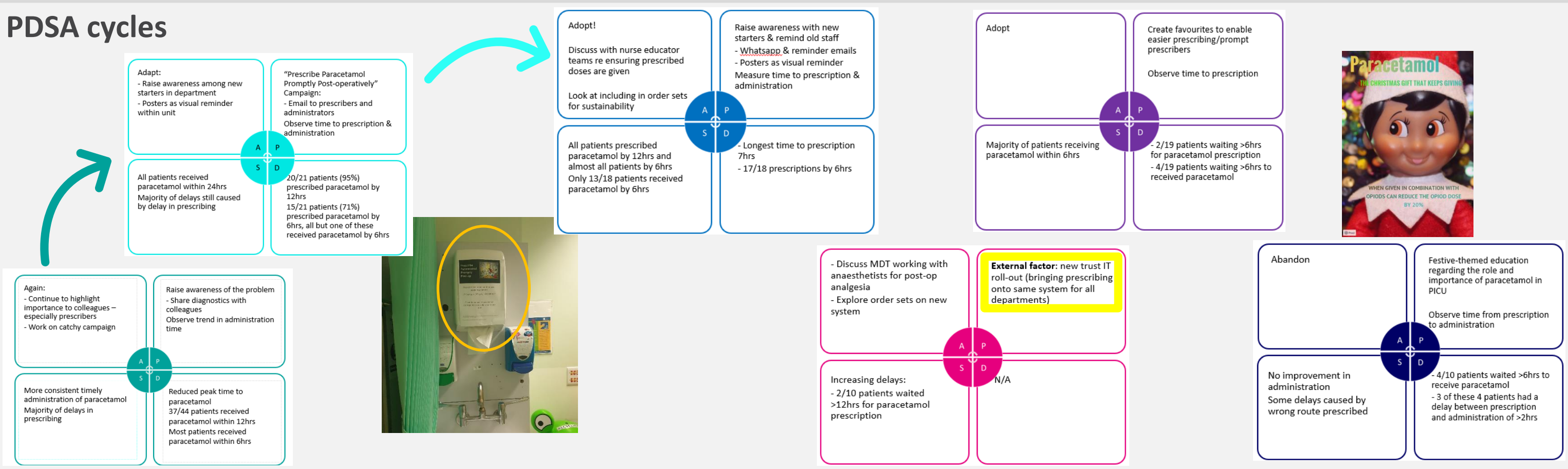
Sampling method and frequency: Weekly, review PICU admissions on ICCA e-vision database

CHANGE IDEAS

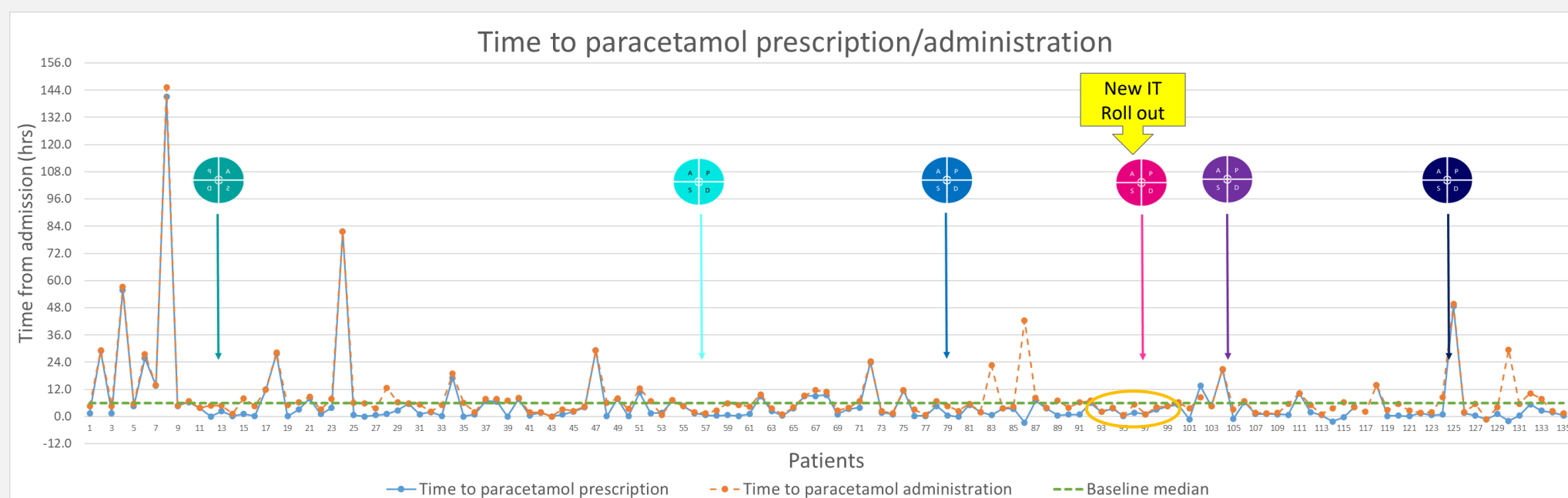
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	LOGICAL? Definitely = 2 Maybe = 1 No = 0	QUICK & EASY? Definitely = 2 Maybe = 1 No = 0	EXCITES ME? Definitely = 2 Maybe = 1 No = 0	SCORE Logic X Quick X Exciting
Add paracetamol to admission order set(s)	2	1	2	4
Empower parents to ask about paracetamol	2	1	1	2
Education campaign for staff (slogan/stickers)	2	2	1	4
New/updated guideline	1	0	0	0
Flag in e-vision if opiates/sedation prescribed without paracetamol	2	1	2	4
Allow nursing staff to give paracetamol orally if IV prescribed but oral appropriate	1	1	1	1
Policy never to hold paracetamol as 'settled' if on IV sedation	1	2	2	4
Dedicated 'admissions' doctor to avoid oversights	2	0	2	0

PDSA cycles



RUN CHART



NOTES relating to IT roll out

- Elective surgery significantly reduced & staffing increased. Patients had much lower acuity: no cardiac bypass surgery in week following IT roll out.
- I covered a lot of shifts during 2 weeks around rollout including long days 9th-12th October where I was the admitting doctor for most post-op patients (96-102).
- Prior to rollout 16/17 (94%) patients were prescribed paracetamol within 6hrs. Post roll out this dropped to 7/10 (70%). (3 waited >6hrs, 2 waited >12hrs for a prescription)

REFLECTIONS & LEARNING

- Simple analgesia is often forgotten about in an ICU environment.
- There are two rate-limiting steps to analgesia administration in our PICU
 - Prescribing
 - Administration
- Education campaigns are effective:
 - Time to prescription shows sustained improvement.
 - No patients waiting anything close to 6 days!
- Abandoning things that don't make a difference saves time & energy.

