

Winning by losing the draw – An efficiency quality improvement project

Dr Monica Tryczynska, Dr Nian Baban, Ms Angharad Jones
University Hospital of Wales

INTRODUCTION

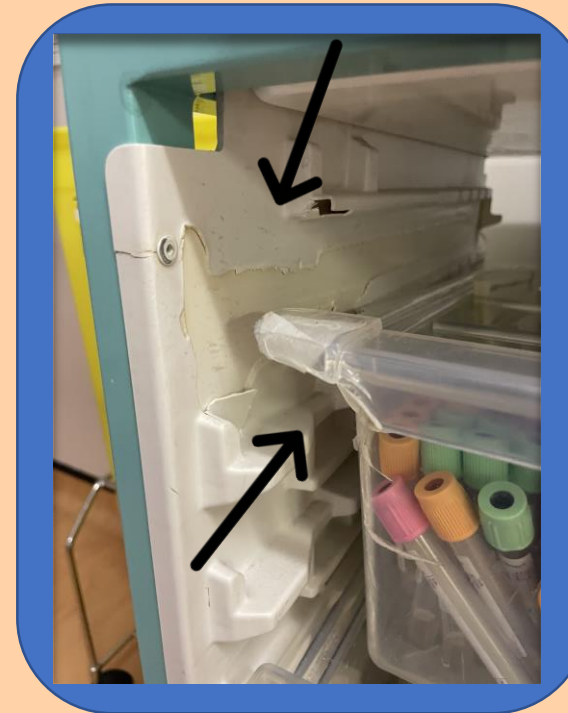
- Efficient equipment is necessary in every acute medical workplace. Not only is it vital, but it must also be easily accessible for staff to use as swiftly as possible.
- On a delivery suite where every second can make a difference to an outcome, essential equipment was being stored in malfunctioning units.
- It was observed that noticeably poor functioning and visibly damaged drawers were failing to open in blood sample/cannulation trollies on the Consultant Led Unit.
- The aim was to assess the number of functional drawers in every delivery room blood trolley and to demonstrate how they were affecting adequate delivery of service in a timely manner.

METHODS - The "single pull test"

- Data was collected to analyse if every blood trolley had adequate functional drawers via a "single pull test".
- Each drawer was assessed as functional only if it opened on the first pull using one hand only.
- Any visible damage such as broken plastic edges were counted as well.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

- 11 out of 12 (92%) delivery rooms had blood sample trollies which were visibly damaged.
- No blood trollies were fully functional.
- 42% of drawers were broken and did not open on the first pull.
- These results proved that swift and effective clinical tasks were being delayed due to faulty, damaged storage equipment.



Visible damage to two drawers which did not pass the "single pull test"

CONCLUSION

- Efficiency of service in an acute clinical area was impeded due to broken drawers. Doctors and midwives were struggling to access the essential equipment, which took up valuable time during acute clinical situations.
- The collected data was presented to managerial staff which resulted in the department purchasing new blood trollies.
- This was presented at the time of the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Wales.
- This simple quality improvement project is an example of how effective change can be implemented in a workplace by demonstrating that a system may be failing to provide efficient service.