

De-escalation Interventions for Hospitals

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No financial interests or
relationships to disclose

Optimizing antimicrobial therapy - a core function of stewardship programs
- helps to reduce complications associated with these drugs, improve patient outcomes, reduce cost, and slow antimicrobial resistance.



De-escalation Interventions



Prospective Audit
& Feedback



Antibiotic Time-
Outs



MRSA PCR
Testing

Definition of De-escalation

- Discontinuation of one or more antimicrobials used as part of combination empirical therapy
- Change from a broad-spectrum to a narrower spectrum antimicrobial

Advantages

- Decreased exposure to broad antibiotics, which may contribute to decrease in AMR
- Potential for decreased risk for side effects
- Often decreased cost
- Potentially decreased LOS

- Rapid diagnostics can be very helpful

Possible Pitfalls

- May not address initiation of unnecessarily broad empiric antibiotics
- What constitutes de-escalation is not always clear
- Associated with increase in total duration of antibiotics
- Not all cultures are useful for de-escalation

Prospective Audit & Feedback

Prospective Audit & Feedback

Common things to look for during reviews:

Too-broad empiric antimicrobials

Redundant antibiotics (double anaerobic coverage, etc.)

Treatment of asymptomatic bacteriuria or bacteriuria without pyuria

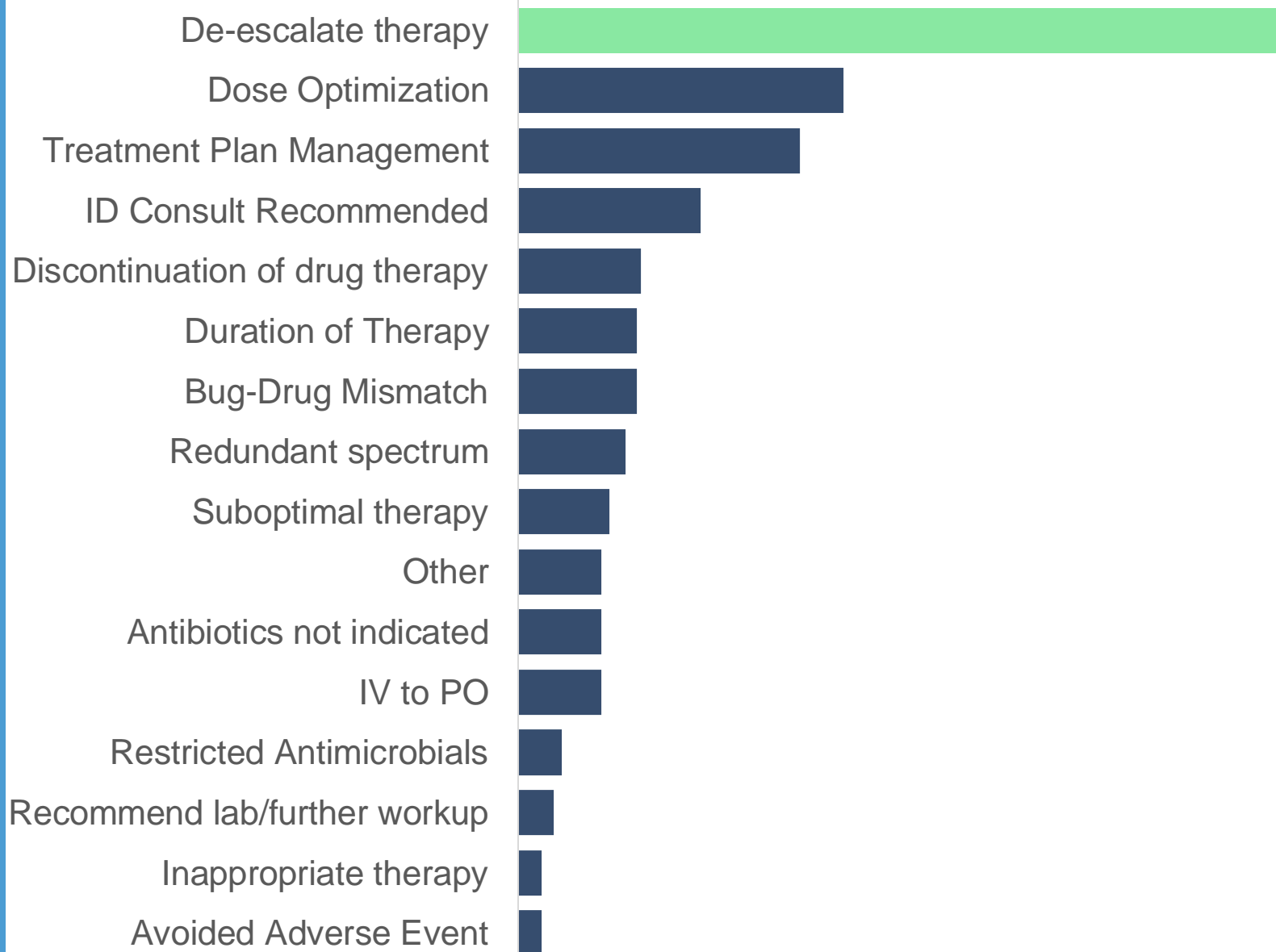
Opportunities for de-escalation based on cultures

Duration of therapy

S. aureus or *S. lugdunensis* bacteremia or candidemia without ID consults

Other high-priority abx:
fluoroquinolones,
clindamycin

Prospective Audit and Feedback Interventions

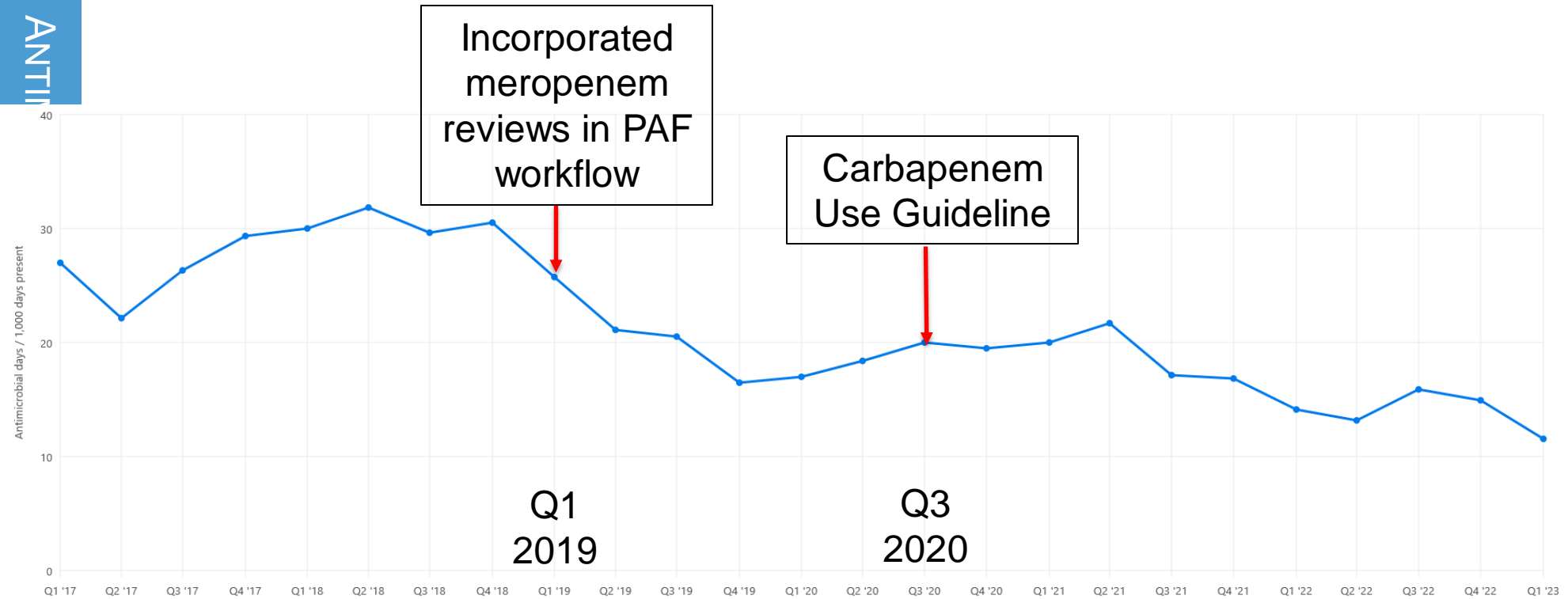


Meropenem Use 2017-2023

Days of therapy/1000 days-present

CAROLINA ANTIM

PROGRAM



Antibiotic Time-Outs

Antibiotic Time-outs



Committing to antibiotic time-outs is a culture change. As with any habit, it takes time for it to become second nature. Across our participating services, we've seen nurse coordinators, physicians, and pharmacists take the lead to ensure that time-outs happen consistently. Service line leaders can help by encouraging their teams to participate and adapting the time-out process to their team's needs."

What is a “Time-out?”

Formal reassessments of antimicrobials prescribed to patients under the care of a clinical team

- Typically take place 2-3 days following the start of treatment
- Consider culture results, patient response to determine if adjustments are needed to:
 - ✓ Drug
 - ✓ Dose
 - ✓ Duration
 - ✓ Route of administration

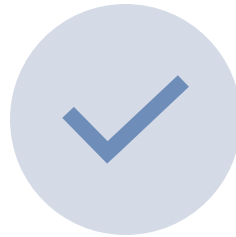


READY FOR A
TIME-OUT?

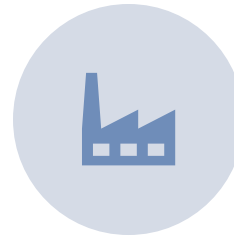
Readiness Checklist: Are you ready for a time-out?



DEFINING NEED



**WILLINGNESS
TO IMPLEMENT
CHANGE**

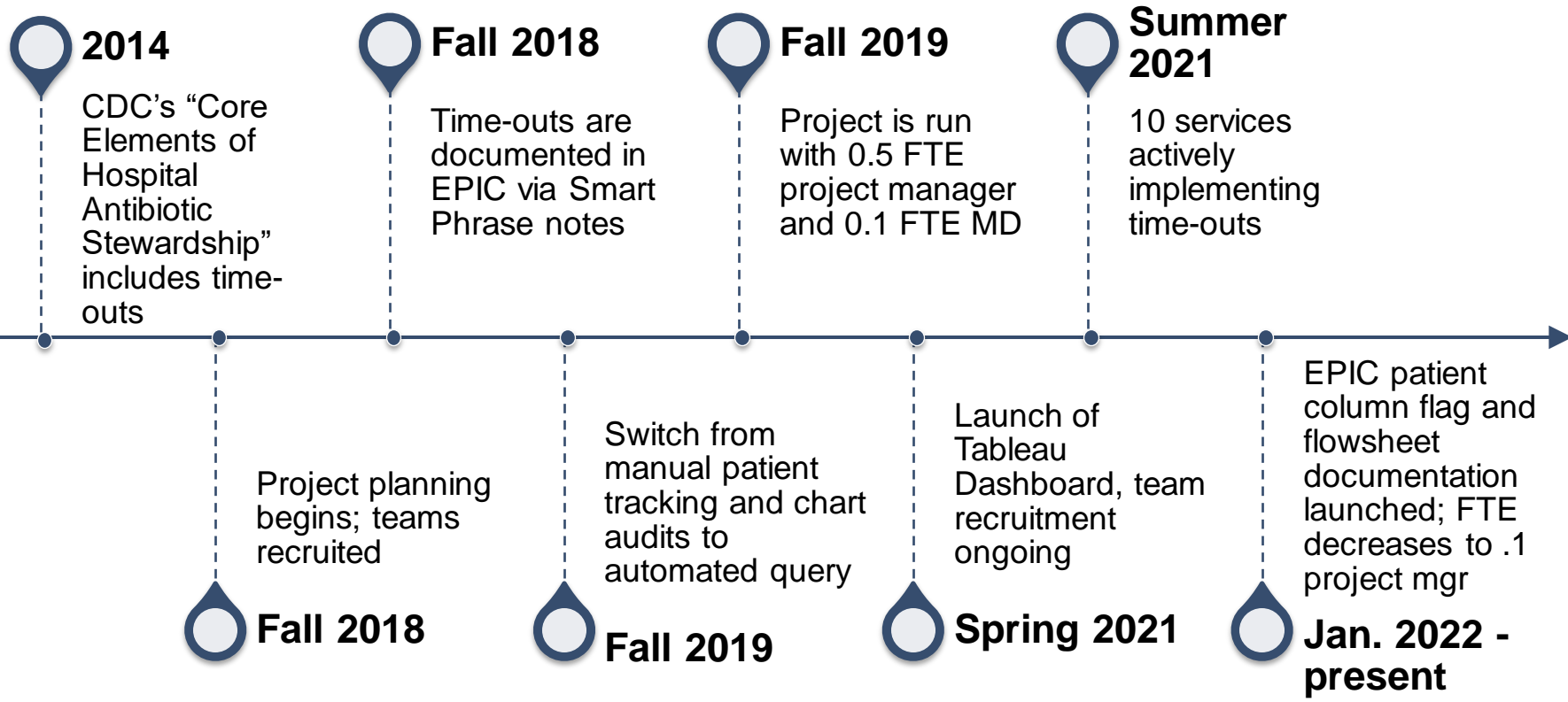


**INFRASTRUCTURE,
RESOURCES, AND
CURRENT
PRACTICE**



SUSTAINABILITY

Project Timeline



Evolution of a Silent System Wide Epic BPA

- **48 Hour Time-out Needed** patient column is available system wide
- **Participating patient care teams** are the only ones that are wrenching this column in

The screenshot shows the Epic Hyperspace interface for a pharmacist. The main window displays a 'Patient Lists' view for 'UNCHCS RX DAILY REVIEW' with 49 patients. The table below shows two patient entries. A red box highlights a yellow warning icon and the text '48hr ABX Timeout needed' in the 'RX Checklist Discharge' column for the patient 'Echo, W (41 y.o. M)'.

Unit	Bed	Patient Name/Age/Gender	New Unverif Orders	New Rslt Flag	New Notes	Open I-Vent	Admission Date	RX Checklist Discharge
5 BT UNCMH	5303-01	Echo, W (41 y.o. M)	33	!	📄	—	8/24/17	DMR: — — — 48hr ABX Timeout needed
1 ADN UNCMH	Swap Bed	Research, R (35 y.o. F)	28	🚫	📄	—	4/11/18	DMR: — — —

Antibiotic Time Outs

Created By: Michael Swartwood, BSN, RN, CAPM

Percent of Eligible Patients With a Time Out

Goal: 80%

	MDA	FAM MED	HBC	PMA+PMB	PICU	BICU
022	100%	88%	100%	50%	100%	
022	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
022	100%	100%	0%	100%	100%	
022	50%	90%	0%	100%	100%	
022	100%	92%		100%	100%	
022	67%	89%		100%		

Current Services (Month of Adoption):
 MDA (11/18) HBD (2/19), HBC (2/19), Family Medicine Blue (4/19), Family Medicine Green (4/19), PMB (11/19), PMA (1/20), PICU (6/20), Family Medicine Teal (7/21), BICU (8/21)

9,311
 Total Patients Evaluated

3,714
 Total Time Outs Conducted

942
 Total Time Outs With Recommendations for Change

Percent of Time Outs Within Time Limits

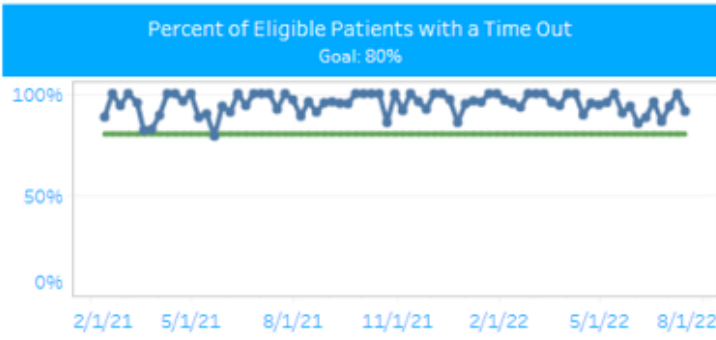
Goal: 80%

	MDA	FAM MED	HBC	PMA + PMB	PICU
July 16, 2022	100%	88%	100%	100%	100%
July 9, 2022	80%	100%	50%	100%	100%
July 2, 2022	100%	100%		50%	100%
June 25, 2022	100%	90%		90%	80%
June 18, 2022	80%	92%		100%	70%
June 11, 2022	100%	89%		60%	

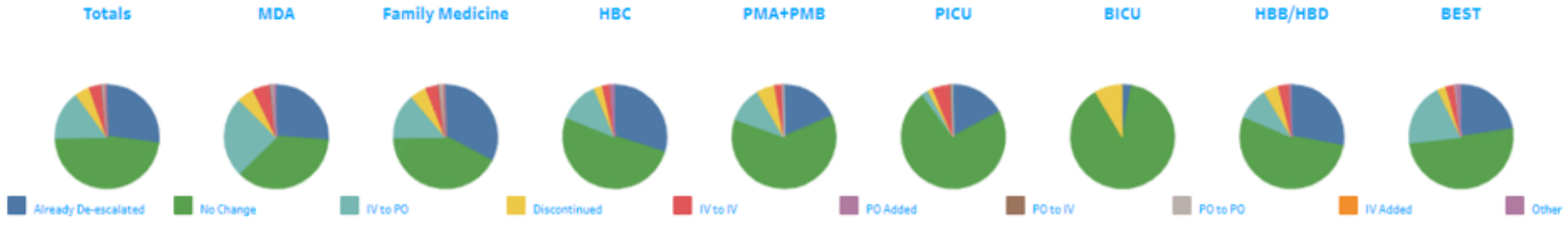
Percent of Eligible Patients With a Time Out

Goal: 80%

86.40%
95.18%
88.63%
96.72%
99.58%
92.11%
85.71%
80.59%



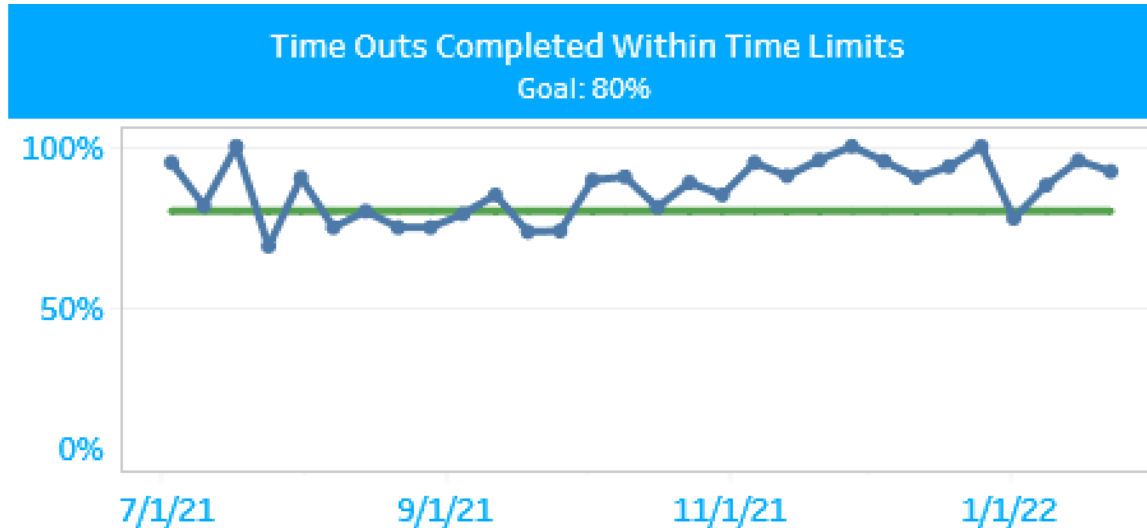
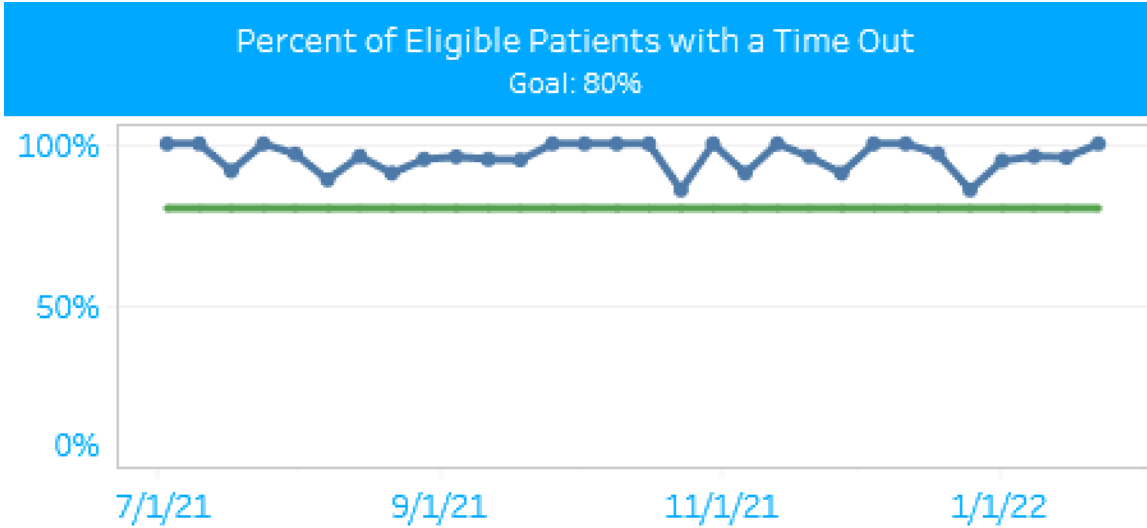
Antibiotic Time Out Decisions



Cumulative With Goal

MDA
FAM MED
HBC
PMA+PMB
PICU
BICU
HBB/HBD
BEST

High Performance Despite COVID Surges



Pros and Cons of This Approach

Strengths

- **Asset Light and Scalable**
- Antimicrobial stewardship becomes routine on part of team's daily practice
- Once set up, monitoring performance benchmarks and reporting them to teams is efficient and uses little FTE.

Obstacles

- Diverted attention due to pandemic
- Rounds already include high-quality daily antibiotic assessment
- Rounding schedules (surgical teams, etc.)

Summary and Takeaways



Highlights importance of working with project champions and optional implementation



By working with partner teams, we work to integrate antimicrobial stewardship into rounds and into the culture of patient care teams



Ability to roll out EPIC tools system wide while maintaining targeted roll out of tool by wrenching in alerts via patient list column



Automation via BusinessObjects and Tableau allow small project FTE to impact large number of patients.

Rapid MRSA Screening

MRSA PCR Nasal Swab for Suspected Pneumonia

SCREEN DETAILS



MRSA Screen

EPIC: LAB234 requires a nasal ESwab™ (swab both nostrils).

Early screening is essential for accurate detection of MRSA.

Screening is quick, and results should be available within 3 hours.

Positive MRSA PCR does not establish MRSA as a respiratory pathogen.

MRSA PCR Nasal Swab for Suspected Pneumonia

CLINICAL UTILITY

This test's high negative predictive value (96.5%) to rule out MRSA as a respiratory pathogen allows early de-escalation of antimicrobial therapy.

High negative predictive value is maintained for up to two weeks after negative results.



MRSA PCR Nasal Swab for Suspected Pneumonia

UNDERSTANDING MRSA SCREEN RESULTS IN PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED PNEUMONIA



Negative MRSA Screen: consider stopping anti-MRSA therapy for clinically stable patients

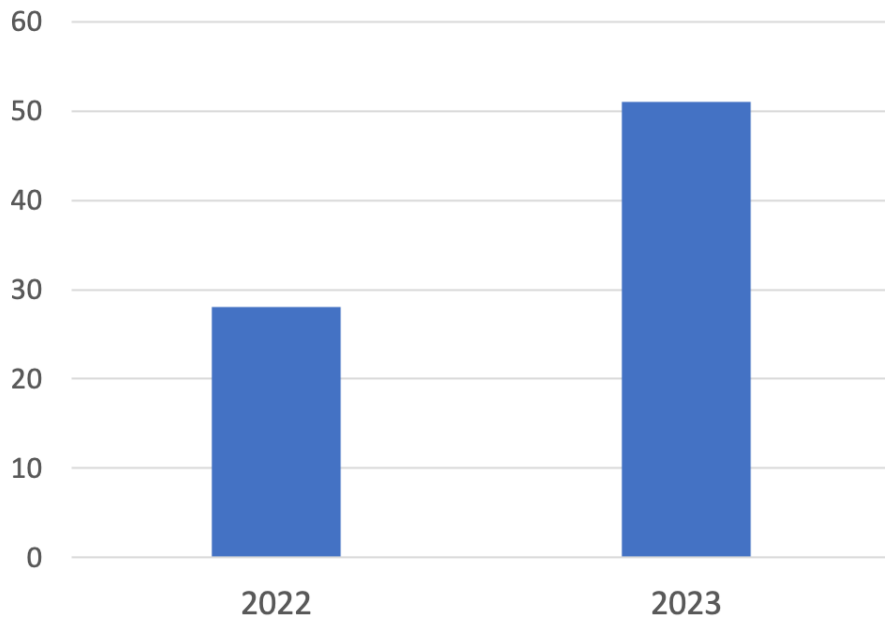


Positive MRSA Screen: use clinical judgement in deciding whether to continue anti-MRSA therapy

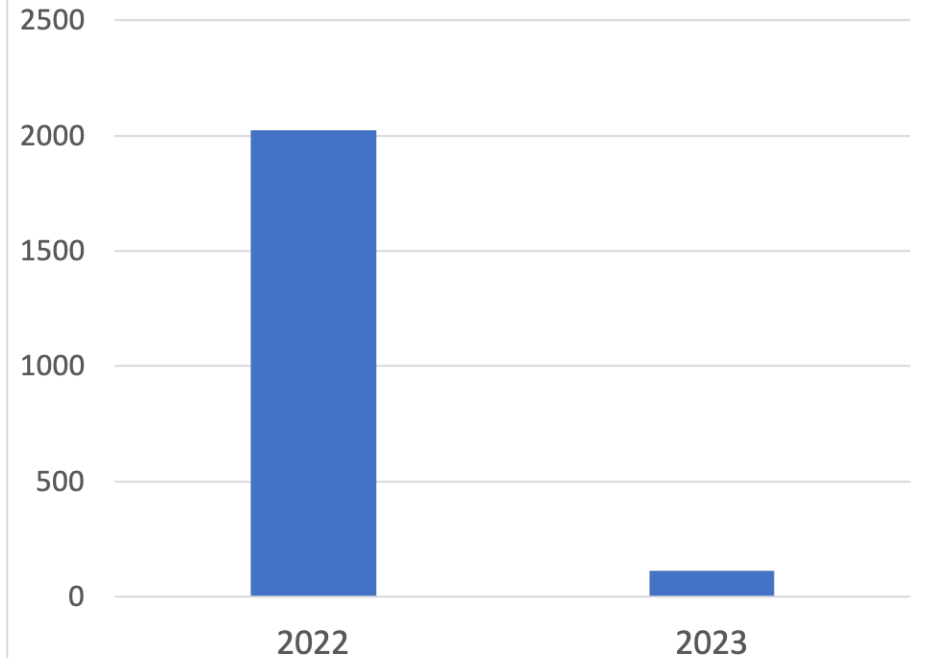
Providers are Ordering the MRSA PCR



Percentage of patients who received MRSA screen

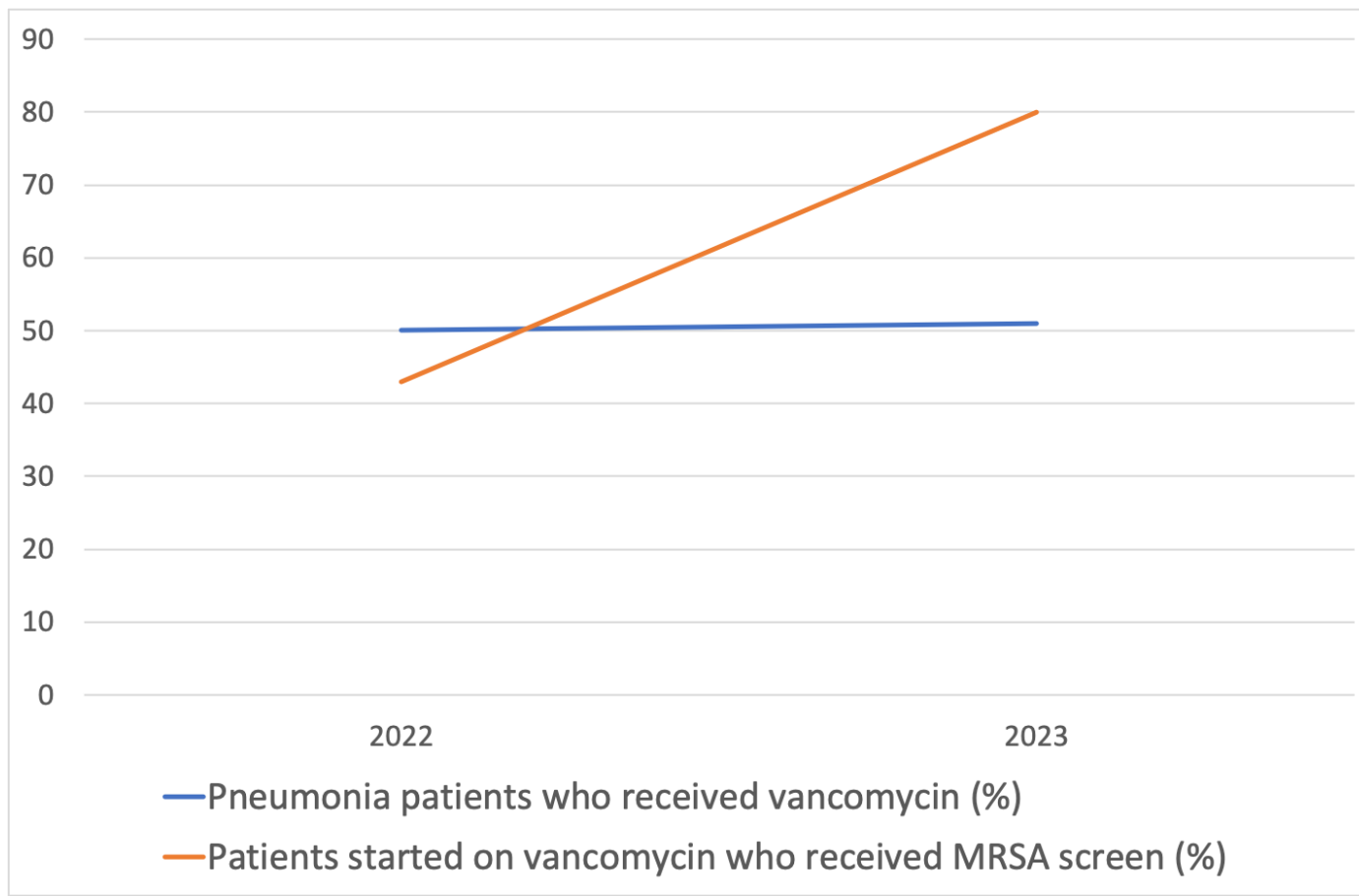


Median MRSA screen turnaround time (min.)





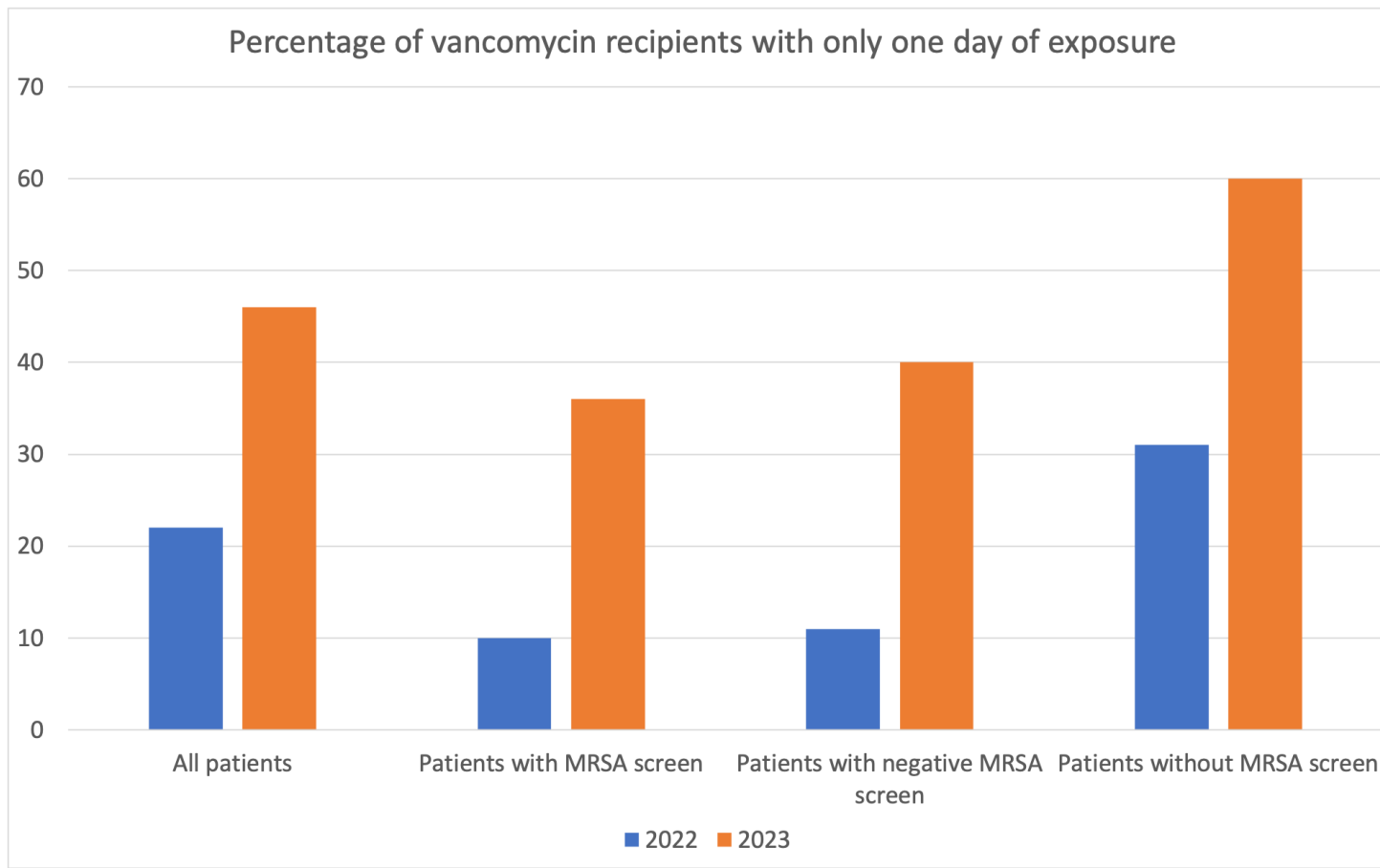
- Providers are still starting vancomycin at similar rates, but ordering the MRSA screen much more often when they do



Results



- More patients received just a single day of vancomycin, regardless of whether they received MRSA screens



Discussion

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