Blood Draw in a Nick of Time

**Purpose:** A situation that prevents a patient from going to the OR is a + antibody screen for an elective OR procedure with no blood set up. It takes approximately 75 minutes to process a type and screen. There was no systematic approach to who the blood drawer saw first in holding. Blood samples were not being drawn in time. This resulted in delays of blood availability and also the start of cases.

**Method:** A clinician began to review the first cases of the day to ensure that all cases had a current type and screen, or that one was ordered for that morning, listing those patients that still needed one. The clinician then presented this list to the patient care technician assigned to draw blood.

**Outcomes:** It is now clear to the patient care tech whose blood should be drawn first. Cases delayed while waiting for a negative antibody screen have been greatly reduced. Cases delayed due to lack of blood availability are tracked via our incident reporting system and reported off to and followed by our PI committee.