

Who's Who in the PACU?

A Multidisciplinary Response to Emergencies

LAUREN BOSTON, MSN, RN, PNP-PC; HOLLIE HUMPHREY, MD; FALLON MARGRAF, DNAP, CRNA; CHRISTY CROCKETT, MD



BACKGROUND

Increased staff turnover in early 2023 prompted leadership to identify potential gaps in staff competence when activating and responding to a PACU patient emergency.

- Opportunities identified:**
- 1. Response efficiency
 - 2. Team cohesiveness during the emergency among Anesthesiologists, CRNAs, & PACU staff

PURPOSE

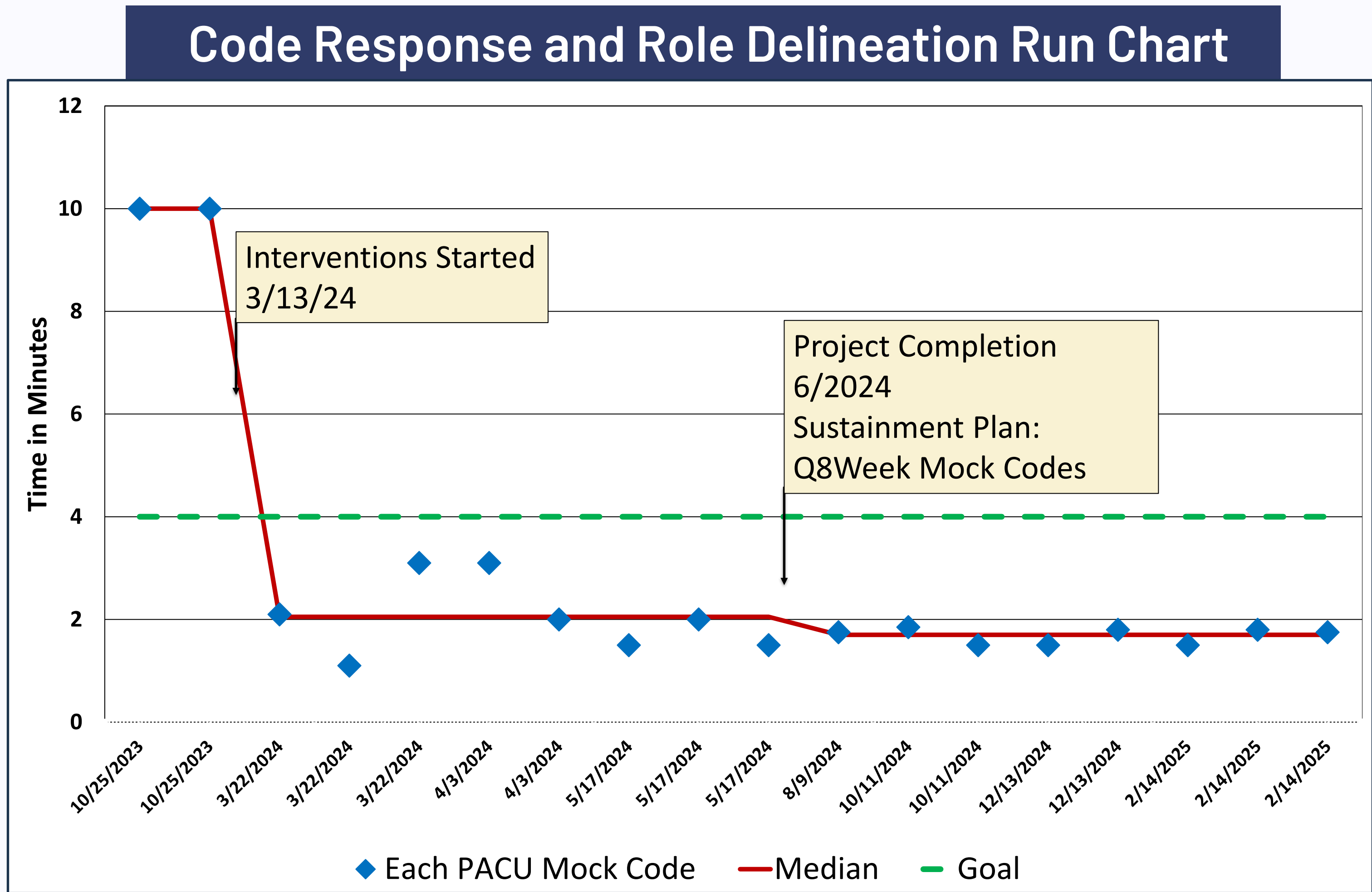
SMART Aim: To decrease the PACU code response time and role delineation from 9 minutes in October 2023 to less than 4 minutes by June 2024.

METHODS

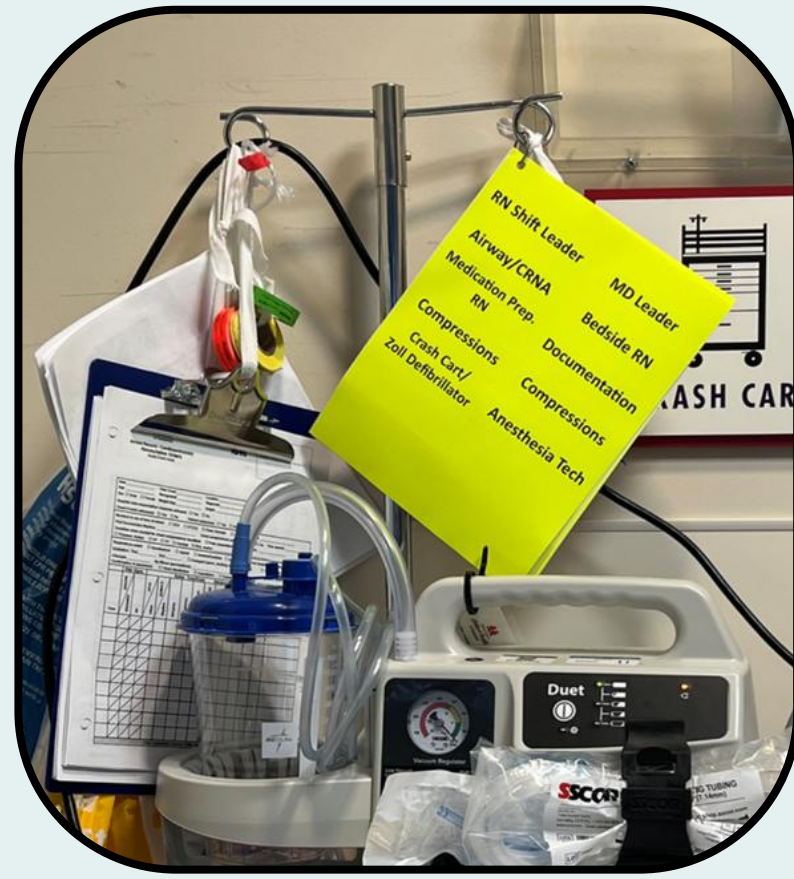
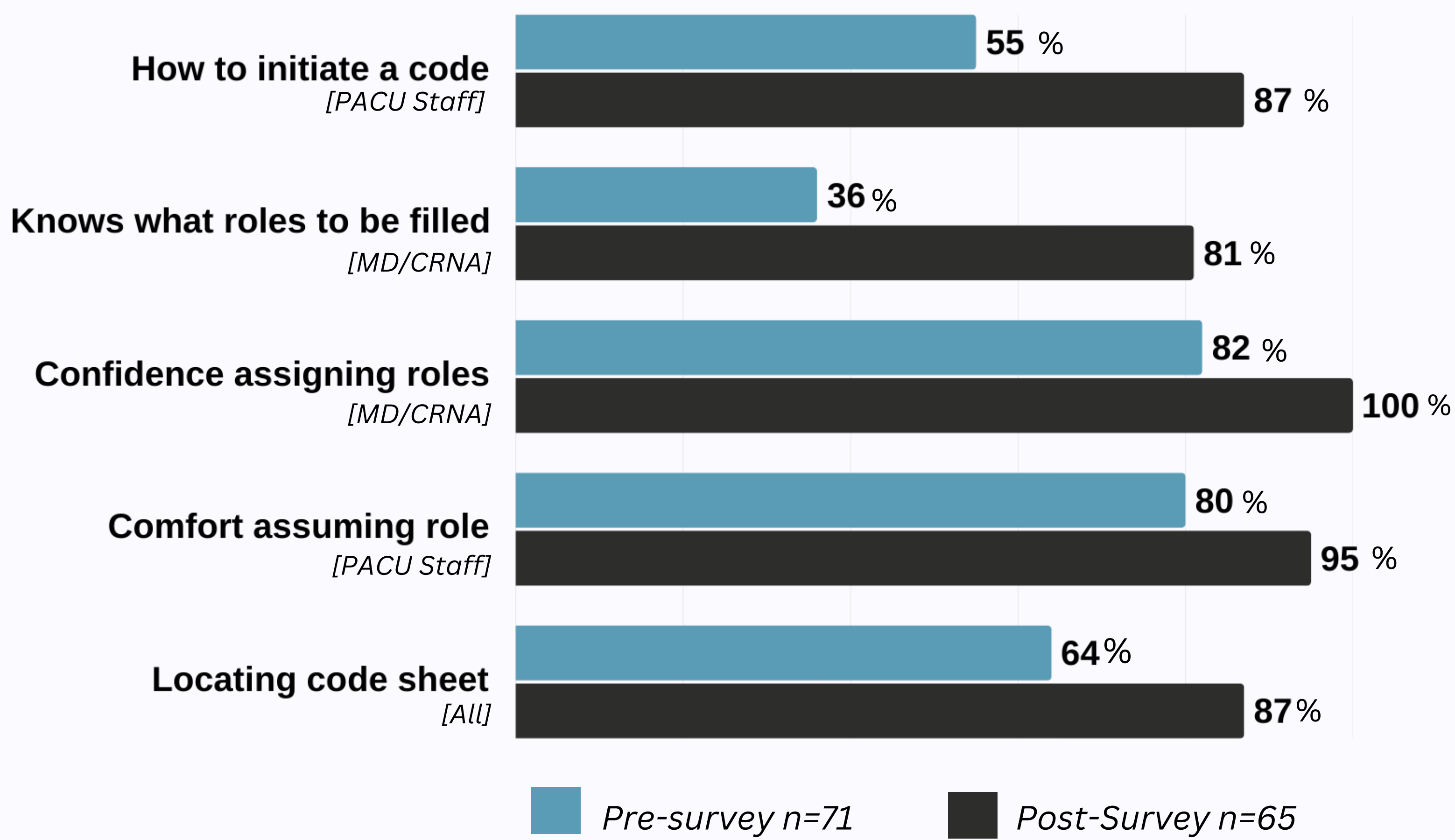
- The multidisciplinary team utilized improvement science methods including the IHI Model for Improvement and interventions tested via Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles.
- **Data analyzed** using statistical process control methods via Run Chart.
- **Measurement:** Time recorded for all necessary team members to arrive, fill appropriate roles, and participate effectively during mock code after activating code button.
- **Pre/Post Survey:** 5-point Likert scale, distributed to perioperative staff (CRNAs, Anesthesiologists, RNs, & Care Partners) to measure the confidence in role assumption & skills required for each role.

OUTCOMES

PACU code response time and role delineation *decreased from 9 minutes to 2 minutes.*



Staff Survey Responses



INTERVENTIONS

Education: Reviewed emergency response roles, activation process, and equipment/skill expectations.

- Multidisciplinary Mock Code Events:**
- Utilized **code role identification stickers**
 - **Standardized process to notify/call** all available Pediatric Anesthesiologists
 - Planned **debriefing**
 - Discussed use of code role stickers
 - Perceived overall cohesiveness of the event

CONCLUSION

- Using code role stickers facilitated more efficient role assignments during the emergency and supported clear responsibilities for each team member.
- Teamwork was observed during the events when the roles were clearly defined.

IMPLICATIONS

- Implementing a role designation system & clear code activation system provides perianesthesia staff with a clear plan during a PACU emergency.
- Role delineation improves communication, team dynamics, and comfort, positively impacting patient outcomes.

