

Background/Purpose

Background

- The perioperative area at Winship Cancer Institute at Emory Midtown began at "Ground Zero." This team was tasked with creating logistical and operational processes for the area. This was done by initiating workflows and standard processes for all related departments including: Pre-Op, PACU, OR, Endoscopy, and Interventional Radiology.

Purpose

- To optimize throughput and support departmental growth by standardizing workflows, educating staff, and enhancing Epic functionality to reduce Pre-op and PACU length of stay in a growing department.

Discussion/Conclusion

Discussion

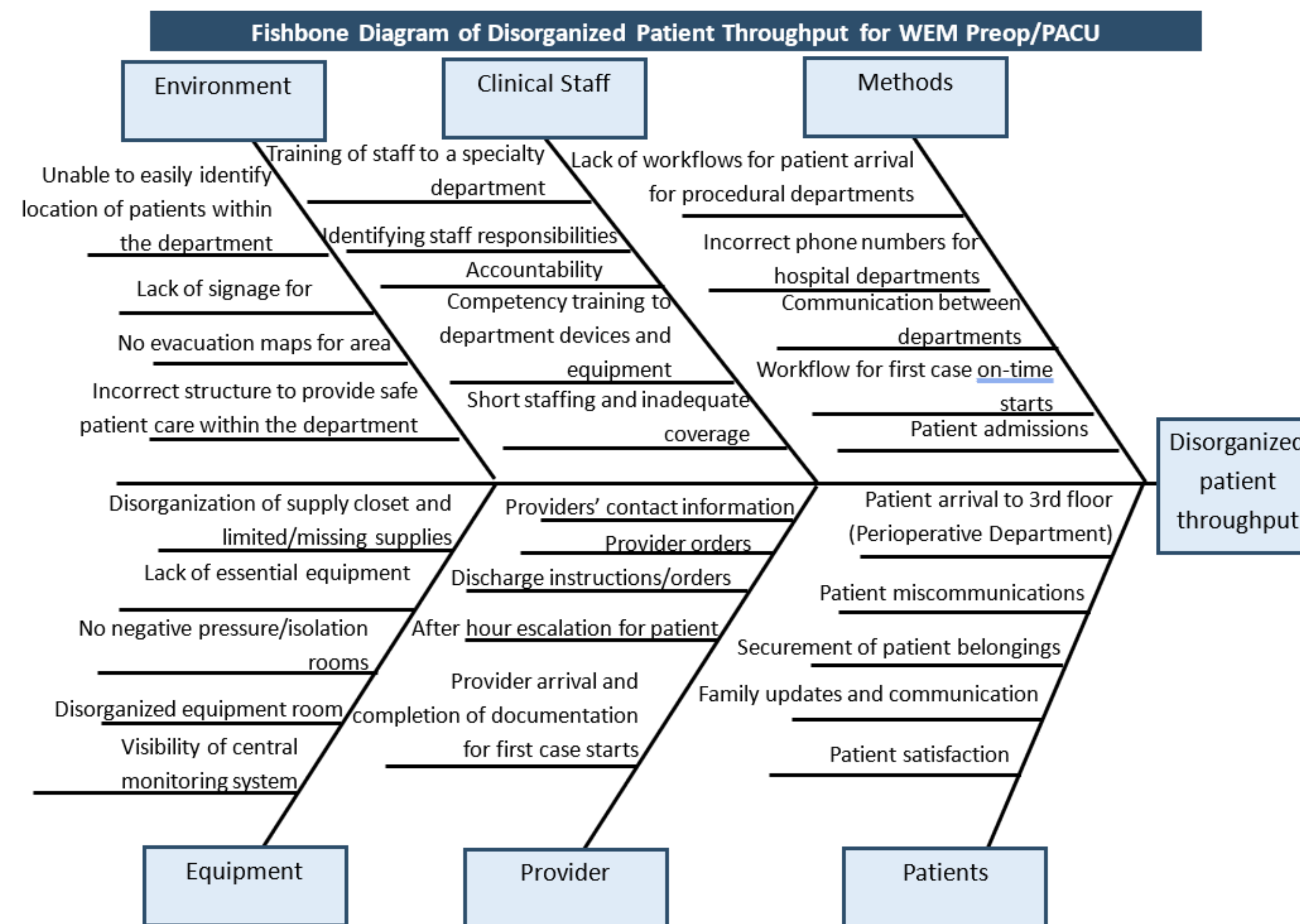
- Standard workflows were created for patient care in pre-op and PACU. Training and implementation took place on May 10, 2023. The first case took place on May 15, 2023. Over 2 years, patient load increased from an average of 279 patients to 514 monthly. With the implementation and continued improvement of standard workflow, pre-op and PACU minutes times decreased by 10.5% even with a 45% increase in patient visits.

Conclusion

- Standard workflows ensure efficiency in the number of minutes patients stay in the pre-op area and PACU for various service lines.

Methods/Data Analysis

- Using fishbone diagrams and throughput algorithms, standard workflows for the identified areas were created.
- An EPIC Cognito SlicerDicer dashboard was created for the analysis of minutes in Pre-op and in PACU.
- Times were compared from May 2023 (hospital inception) to May 2025.



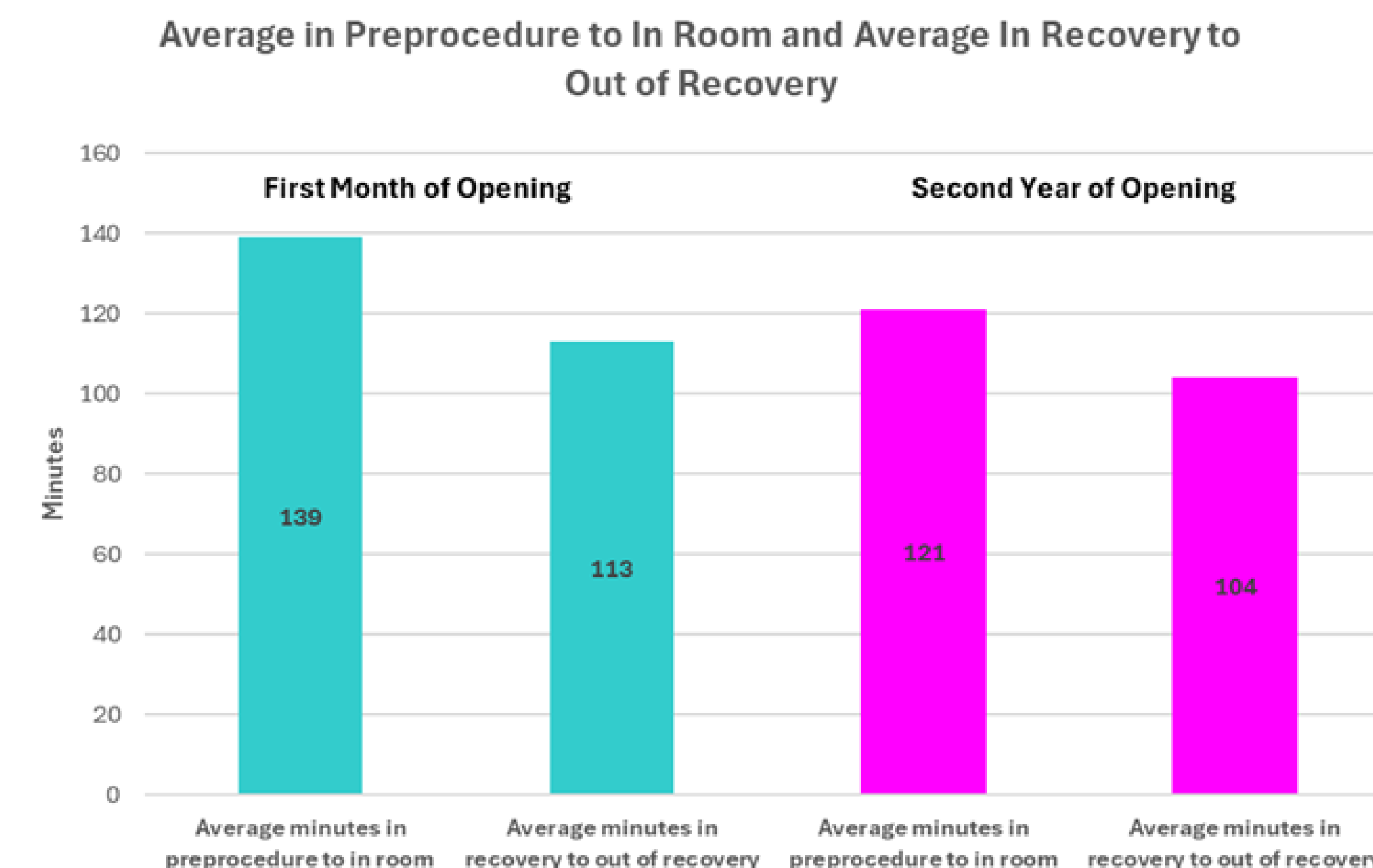
Implications For Practice

- At the inception of a new peri-operative unit, standardized workflows and processes will be continued, as data has demonstrated improvements in efficiency, accuracy, and throughput. Ongoing monitoring will ensure sustained performance and alignment with best practice.



Results

- Over 2 years, with continued evaluation using the Plan-Do-Study-Act framework, minutes decreased in pre-op and PACU for all service lines.



Supporting Evidence/References

- ASPAN. (2021). PeriAnesthesia Nursing Core Curriculum. (L. Schick, & P. E. Windle, Eds.) St. Louis: Elsevier.
- Odom-Forren, J. (2024). Drain's Perianesthesia Nursing (8th ed.). St. Louis: Elsevier.