



Lean Ways to Break Down Barriers to Respond to Postpartum Hemorrhage

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**I have no conflicts
of interest to report**

Objectives

To identify barriers to responding quickly to a postpartum hemorrhage.

To recognize the impact of postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) response to outcomes.

To learn how to use Lean processes to identify process barriers.



Introduction

Why is this relevant?

Some statistics regarding postpartum hemorrhage (PPH)

- Leading cause of maternal mortality worldwide
- Leading cause of severe maternal morbidity in the United States
- The rate of PPH increased 26% between 1994 and 2006
- PPH occurs in approximately 1%-^% of deliveries

Practice Bulletin No. 183: Postpartum Hemorrhage. Obstetrics & Gynecology: October 2017 - Volume 130 - Issue 4 - p e168-e186 doi: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000002351

Wormer KC, Jamil RT, Bryant SB. Acute Postpartum Hemorrhage. [Updated 2022 May 8]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2022 Jan-. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK499988/>



Background

Barriers related to postpartum hemorrhage medications were identified through use of the event reporting and frontline staff feedback utilizing the 4C tool.

Barriers Identified

1. TXA stocked in labor and delivery pyxis, not in the OR
2. The PPH cart was in labor and delivery, not in the OR
3. PPH medications were not ordered ahead of time for laboring patients
4. TXA was not stocked in the PPH boxes
5. Refrigerated PPH medications were not being signed out from the pyxis.



Removal of Barriers

Use of LEAN Methodology to modify the
location

access

and ordering process

for the **medications** used to treat Postpartum hemorrhage

Solutions

- 1. TXA now stocked in both OR pyxis machines**
 - Improved tracking and access**
- 2. Purchased a second cart for the OR area**
 - Frontline staff implemented cart in OR area**
- 3. Collaborated with provider staff PPH medications are ordered under signed and held**
 - Improved timing of access**
- 4. Worked with the pharmacy team and added TXA to PPH box**
 - Rapid accessibility**
- 5. Signs placed on pyxis to delineate sign out process**

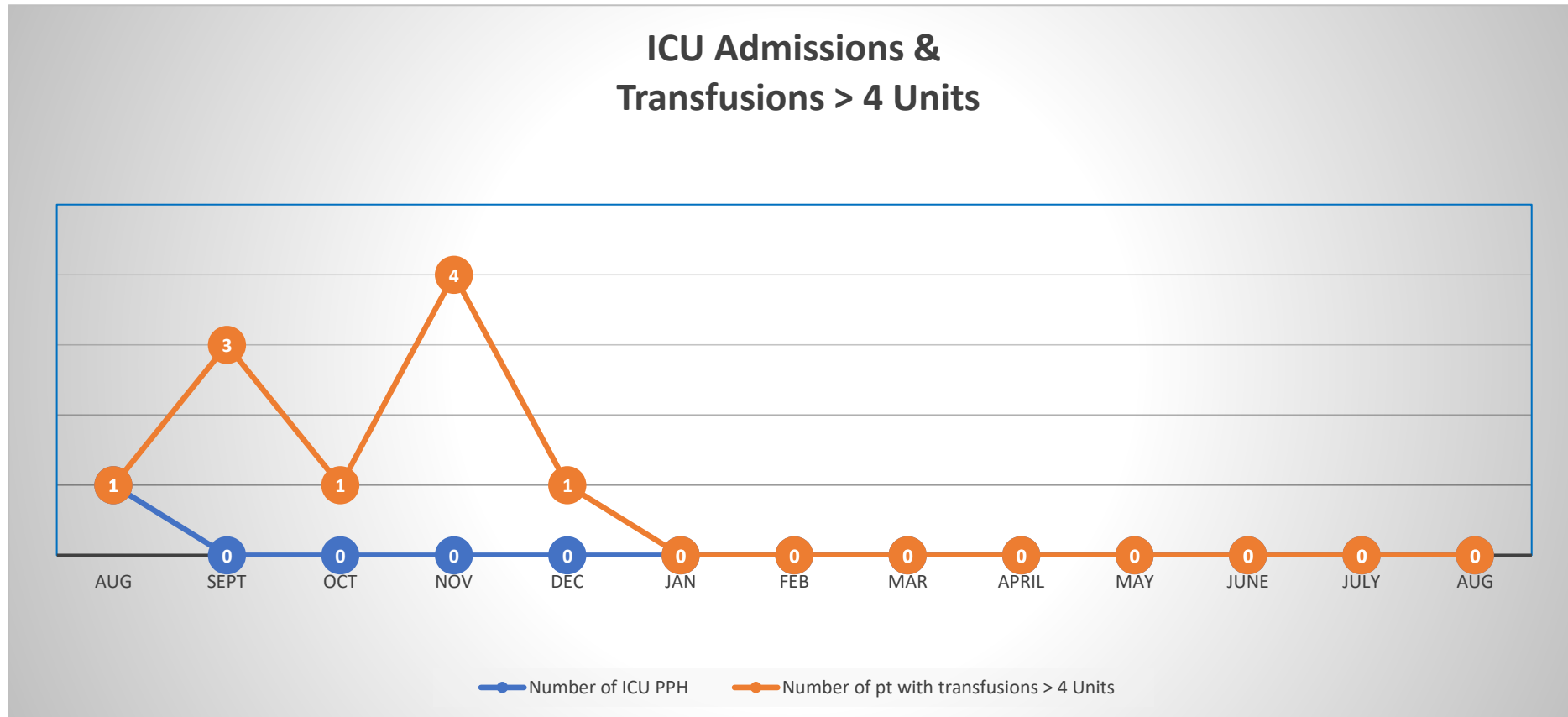
Results

Result were measured by:

Incidence of ICU admissions

Transfusions greater than four units following
a PPH event

Decreased to zero for 5 months straight



Implications

- Use LEAN methodology to identify root cause barriers to improve
 - The Location
 - The Access
 - The ordering process

Of emergency PPH medications

Conclusion

There was an overall decrease in serious PPH events after the use of LEAN methodology to identify the root cause of barriers to access PPH medications.