Improving Vascular Surgery Outcomes by Standardizing Operative Sittings: A Quality Improvement Initiative

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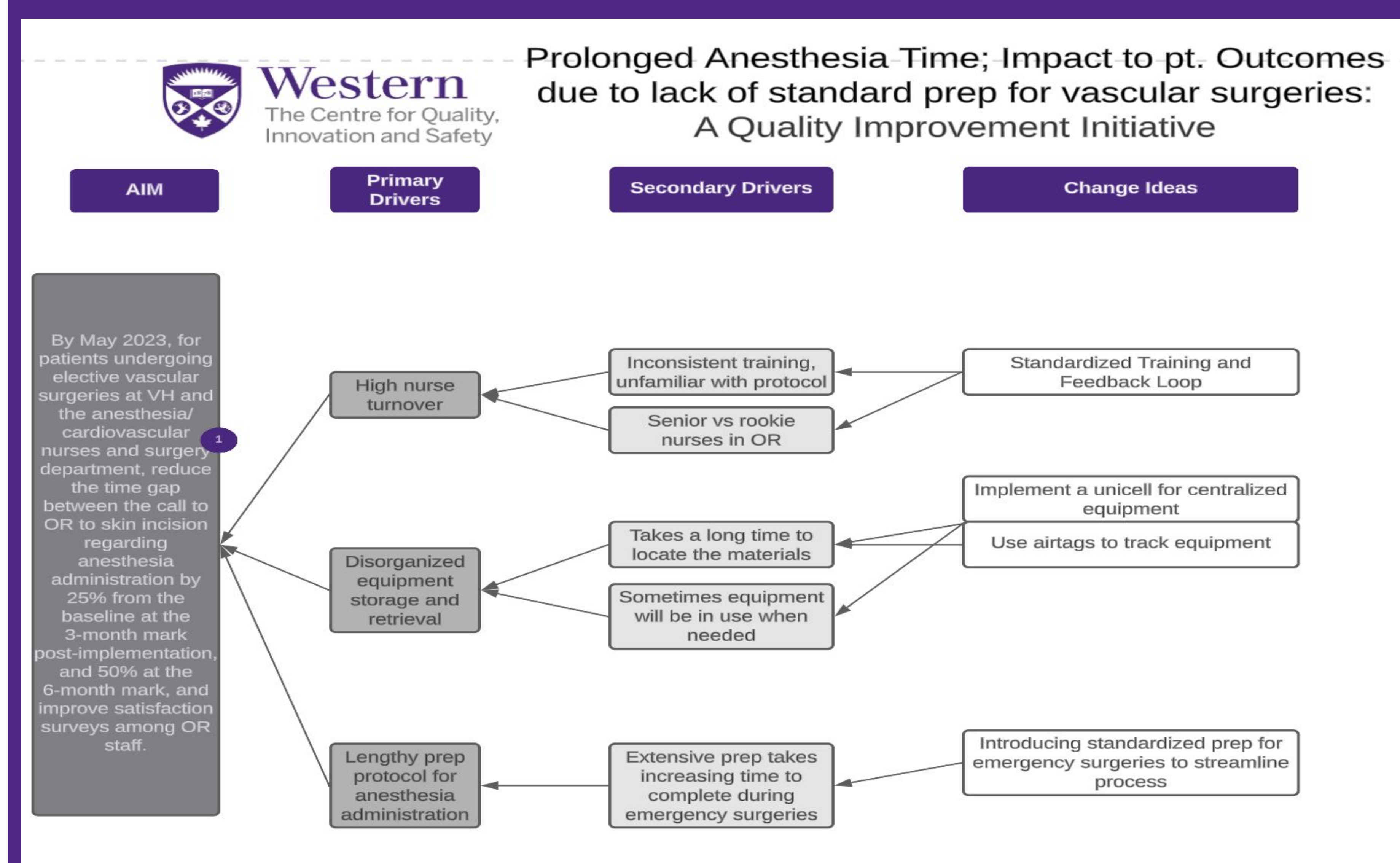
AIM Statement: By May 2023, for patients undergoing elective vascular surgeries, anesthesia/vascular nurses and the surgery department at VH will be able to facilitate a reduced time gap between the call to OR to skin incision regarding anesthesia administration by 25% from the baseline at the 3-month mark post-implementation, and 50% at the 6-month mark, and improve satisfaction surveys among OR staff.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

The problem identified was the lack of staff satisfaction and the amount of time it was taking from a patient entering the OR, to when the skin was incised, specifically for elective vascular surgeries.
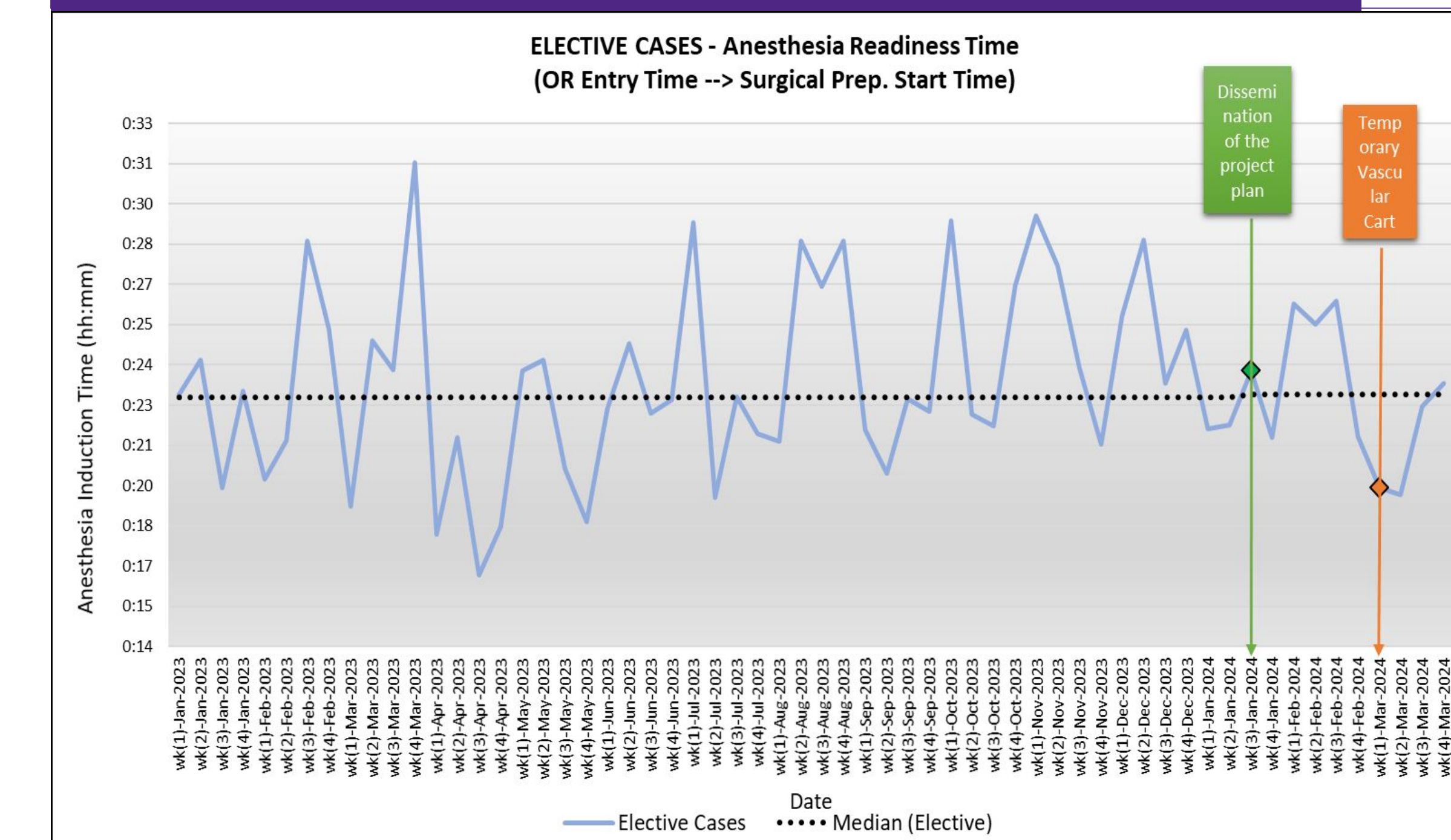
ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

- Equipment Tracking Issues
- Lack of Standardized Processes
- Nurse Turnover

IMPLEMENTATION

- PDSA 1: The anesthesia leadership is exploring the acquisition of two additional ultrasound machines due to a shortage that has impacted availability in Operating Room 18 for Vascular use.
- PDSA 2: Initial confusion over restocking delayed implementation. Now, residents scan a QR code on the cart to verify it is stocked with the necessary materials for each intervention.

MEASUREMENT & RESULTS

- Recent implementation
- Need to track results over longer period

SUSTAINABILITY

1. Process Owner- Respiratory Therapist
2. Documentation of new standard - QR code posters around surgical area
3. Monitoring plan - Seeking consistent feedback, and using QR code to ensure Unicell is stocked.