System Standardization of Code Blue Equipment and Documentation

Jean Carraher, DNP, RN-BC, NE-BC, CCRN-K **Marcia Turner, MS, RN**

INTRODUCTION

A process improvement project was undertaken to standardize the emergency medical response equipment and documentation processes across a system of seven hospitals located in the upper mid-west of the United States.

The principles of PDSA cycles were used to develop standardized processes and documentation for:

- Code Blue event documentation and processing.
- Crash cart configuration (supplies and locations) along with exchange processes involving supply chain and pharmacy.

The outcomes of this work included improved efficiency and patient care during emergency medical events, decreased supply costs, and improved documentation processes.

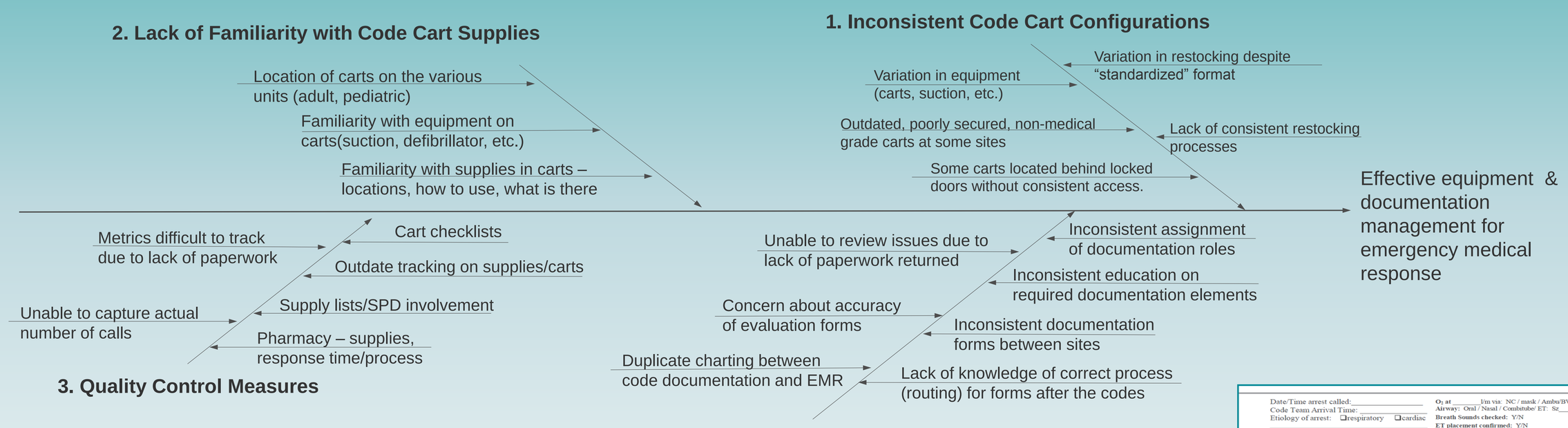
OBJECTIVES

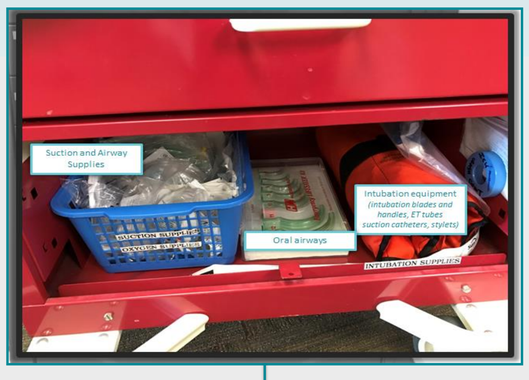
AIM: Standardize code blue equipment and documentation across the system to enhance code response.

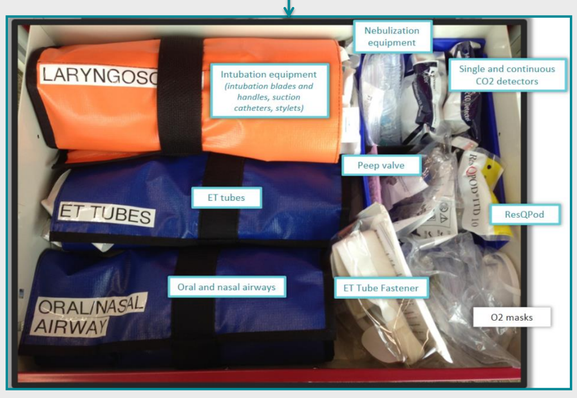
OBJECTIVES:

- Engage interdisciplinary stakeholders and senior leadership.
- Complete a gap analysis of existing processes.
- Determine best practice options for improvement.
- Develop education and communication processes.
- Implement the new equipment and documentation.

GAP ANALYSIS

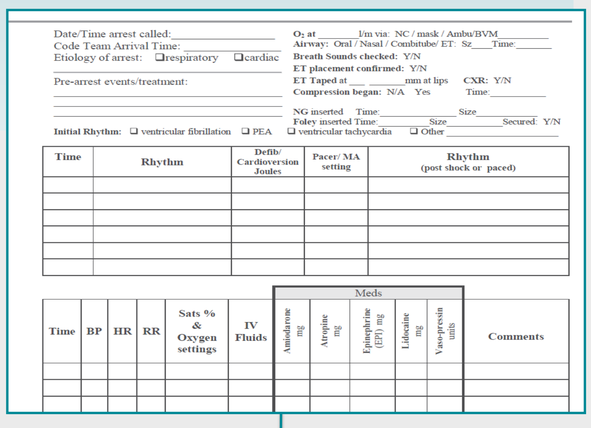


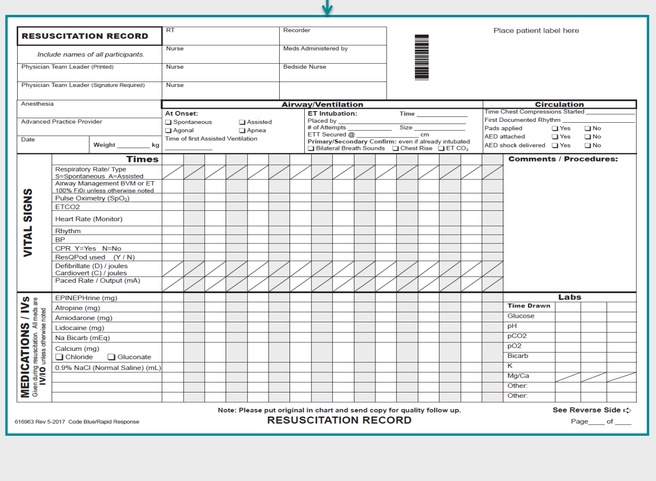




ACTIONS

- Interdisciplinary team to develop carts (contents) and documentation (standards) to incorporate best practices from the literature and existing processes/documents from across the system.
- Work with individual sites to justify and obtain funding for proposed changes (as needed).
- Implementation of new processes individualized for each site depending on the changes needed.
- Develop online and just-in-time training for roll-out of new documentation and code carts to each site. Online education available for onboarding of new hires or for review of education.





OUTCOMES

CODE BLUE EQUIPMENT:

- Four of seven sites on universal (across the age span) cart configuration, two of seven sites standardized to the same basic configuration for adults with separate pediatric carts. One site still in progress.
- Improved the efficiency and decreased costs through:
  - Implementation of cart exchange through supply chain to decrease variation and overstocks.
  - Consolidation of process into supply chain decreased nursing time to restock carts on individual units.
  - Improved tracking of outdates.
- Improved charge capture for medications through pharmacy.

DOCUMENTATION:

- All sites standardized to one documentation process and paperwork.
- All sites standardized to one standard workflow for managing code documentation paperwork.
- Improved quality and metrics capture with standardized paperwork flow.

CONTACTS

Jean Carraher jcarrah1@fairview.org **Marcia Turner** mturner1@fairview.org