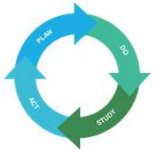
4 Establish A Clear Set Of Guidelines On OR 'Give Backs' With Accountability Mechanisms



Challenge Identified

Across Central Zone, OR blocks often go unused due to surgeons giving OR blocks back with short notice, limiting ability to reallocate the time. Surgical sites that are considered "less desirable" have higher rates of OR 'give backs,' and there is a history of surgeons releasing their assigned OR blocks to pick up time at a preferred site on the same day. Short notice OR 'give backs', result in unfilled OR blocks leading to poor overall utilization.

The Central Zone Perioperative Team was interested in creating a consistent, effective, and systematic process for releasing OR blocks, with accountability measures to work towards maximizing OR utilization.

Solution Implemented

- A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was implemented across Central Zone Perioperative Services to ensure that OR time is released with advanced notice. This allows OR managers to re-assign the block to other surgeons in a timely manner, enabling other providers to utilize available surgical time. This SOP outlines that:
- Surgeons must release scheduled OR time a minimum of 14 calendar days in advance of the scheduled OR block at the Victoria General Hospital (VG) and Halifax Infirmary (HI) and a minimum of 28 calendar days, in advance of the scheduled OR block at Dartmouth General Hospital (DGH) and Hants Community Hospital (Hants), except for extenuating circumstances.
- OR Release data will be collected and considered in determining future block allocation to services and surgeon scheduling.

Early Impact

- Data is now collected in a standardized online format.
- A higher proportion of give backs were picked up by another service compared to previous months.
- There has been a decrease in the number of givebacks across sites.

Next Steps

Recommendation:

- Adopt current processes as implemented.
- Continue to monitor.

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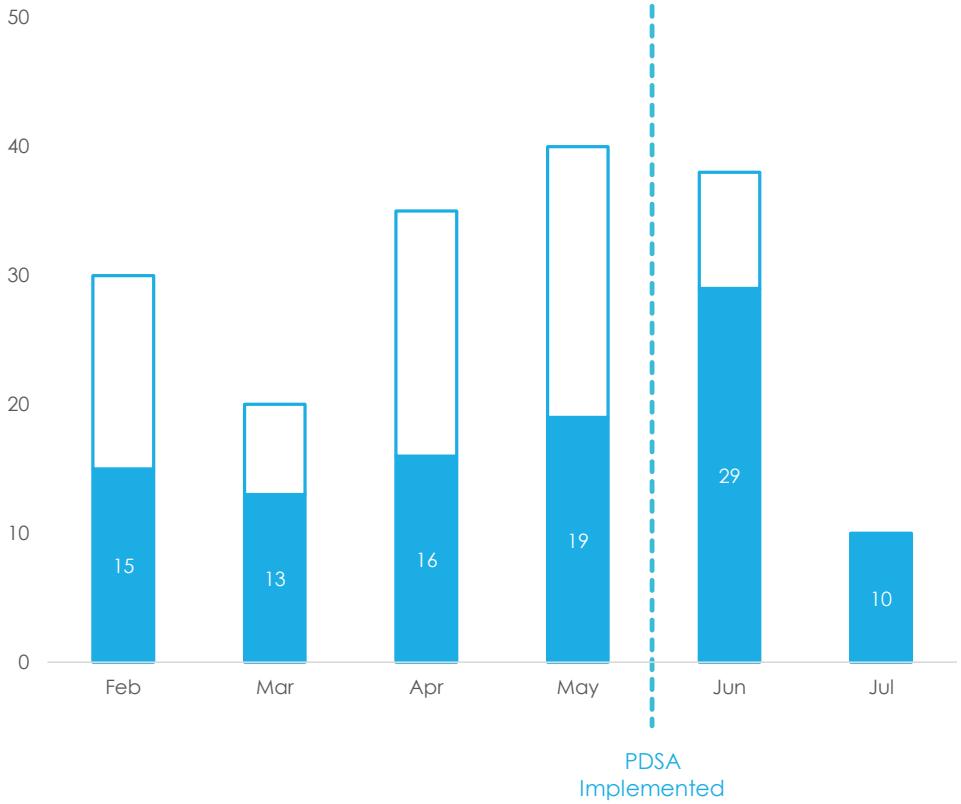
4 **Results & Impact**: Establish A Clear Set Of Guidelines On OR 'Give Backs' With Accountability Mechanisms

Number of Give Backs and % Filled (CZ)



- HI and Hants have experienced **a decrease in the number of givebacks** from May to July.
- General surgery had a significant decrease in number of givebacks (23% to 4%) and increase in number of givebacks picked up in the month of June.
- Ortho picked up less time in May and June
- HI and Hants have experienced **a decrease in the number of givebacks** from May to June.

Sources: OR Manager Give Back Tracking Tool (manually collected).