1 Proceed With Surgeries As Scheduled, Even If An In-patient Bed Is Not Confirmed, Within Specified Criteria

Challenge Identified

At the Halifax Infirmary, delays starting a procedure due to the unavailability of an in-patient bed occur regularly, at times causing cancellations at the end of the day due to 'not enough elective time'.

The Central Zone Perioperative Team was interested in formalizing the policy of proceeding with surgeries as scheduled, even if an in-patient bed is not confirmed. This procedure previously existed, but was inconsistently followed by physicians and staff.

Formalizing this policy was determined to be feasible given that few cases are cancelled due to the unavailability of an inpatient bed and the C3 initiative has been successful in ensuring patient flow and consistently finding beds.

Early Impact

- Impact of the PDSA to date has not significantly affected the off-hours operation of the PACU.

Solution Implemented

- A PDSA cycle was implemented for elective same day admissions at the Halifax Infirmary, such that all cases requiring a ward or IMCU bed will proceed as scheduled, irrespective of whether a bed has been confirmed or not, except in the following circumstances:
    - If a patient requiring a ward bed was held overnight in the PACU, first cases may proceed as planned without a confirmed bed. However, subsequent cases must be reviewed between C3 and perioperative departments to determine if the case can proceed.
    - Surgical cases requiring cardiovascular care beds will continue to follow existing decision processes.

Next Steps

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

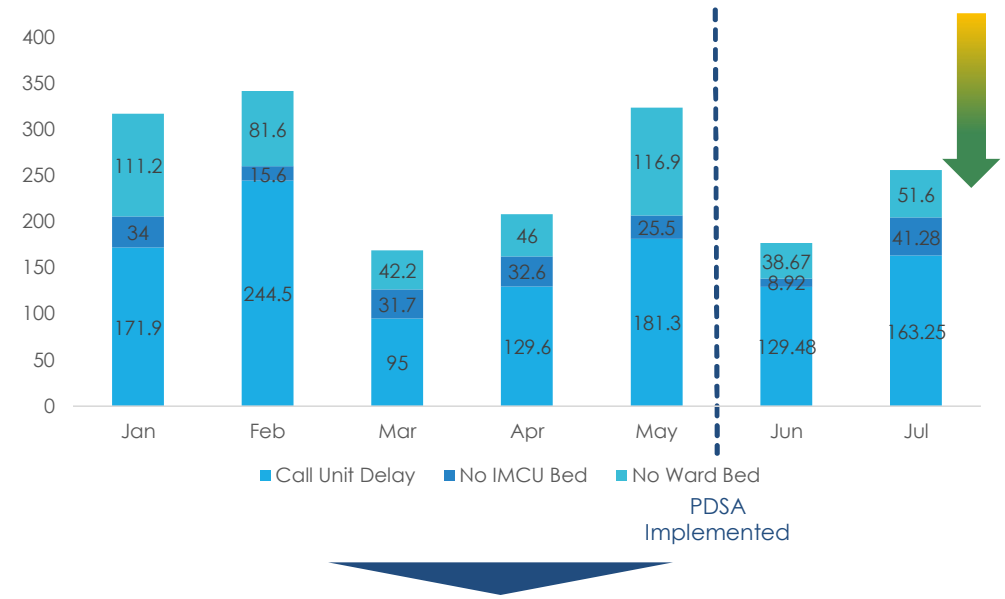
Future Considerations:
- Expand to VG and/or DGH.

NOVA SCOTIA

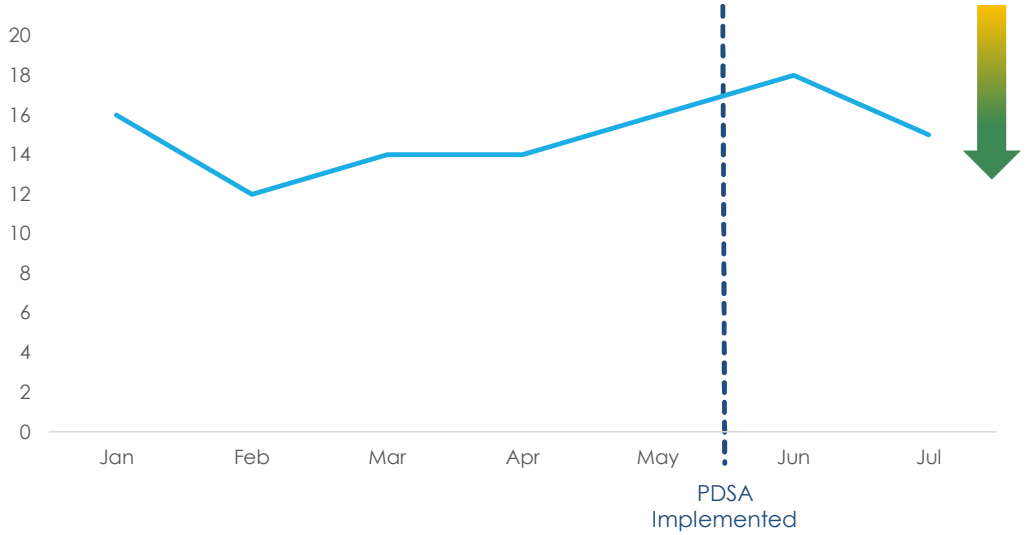
nova scotia health

1 **Results & Impact**: Proceed With Surgeries As Scheduled, Even If An In-patient Bed Is Not Confirmed, Within Specified Criteria

Total hours of HI PACU Holds by Bed Type



Number of Times HI PACU is Kept Open Overnight



- There has been a **decrease in the number of delays** in PACU from driven by less 'no ward bed' delays and 'no IMCU bed' delays.

- HI has seen **a slight decrease in the number of nights** the PACU remains open overnight for a surgical patient (scheduled or unscheduled) from May to July (16 to 15).

1. *Call Unit Delay -NSG unit bed not ready, NSG unit shift change, NSG unit staff on break, NSG unit too busy to receive pt/report, post recovery lounge full.*
2. *No IMCU-NSG unit no IMCU and Hospital: Step down bed not available.*
3. *No ward bed delays include delays categorized as: Hospital: Ward bed not available and NSG unit no ward bed available.*

Source: OR and PACU holds from ASM. PACU On Call data manually collected.