2 Schedule A Waitlist Or Short Elective Case Prior To Day Of Surgery As The First Case Of The Day In Waitlist Rooms

Challenge Identified

The processes for booking patients in waitlist rooms can vary and are not consistently followed by surgeons across Central Zone. Last minute bookings or changes result in case delays, late starts, and block overruns.

When the first case of a waitlist room is not known in advance, the perioperative team is not be able to prepare the OR and the patient in a timely fashion. A change to the planned order of the wait list room can cause delays in starting the first case, as the perioperative team needs to re-set up the OR for a different procedure and prepare the patient.

The Central Zone Perioperative Team was interested in ensuring that the first case of the day in wait list rooms are scheduled the day prior, such that the perioperative staff and physicians can prepare for the case (i.e., case carts, room set up, anesthesia assessment, etc.), and the inpatient ward can prepare the patient (if applicable) to ensure the OR starts on time.

Solution Implemented

- A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was implemented at the HI, VG, and DGH sites. This SOP outlines that:
- The first case of a Wait List Room Block must be identified the day prior, to allow for adequate preparation and notification of all relevant parties. The first case should be identified by:
  - 1300 at Dartmouth General Hospital
  - 1800 at the Halifax Infirmary and Victoria General
- Changes to the first case of a wait list room cannot be changed once booked, except under extenuating circumstances as detailed in the SOP.

Early Impact

- The HI has experienced a measured increase in on time starts in waitlist rooms.
- Generally, the process for scheduling the first case is followed by services who have regular waitlist room blocks.

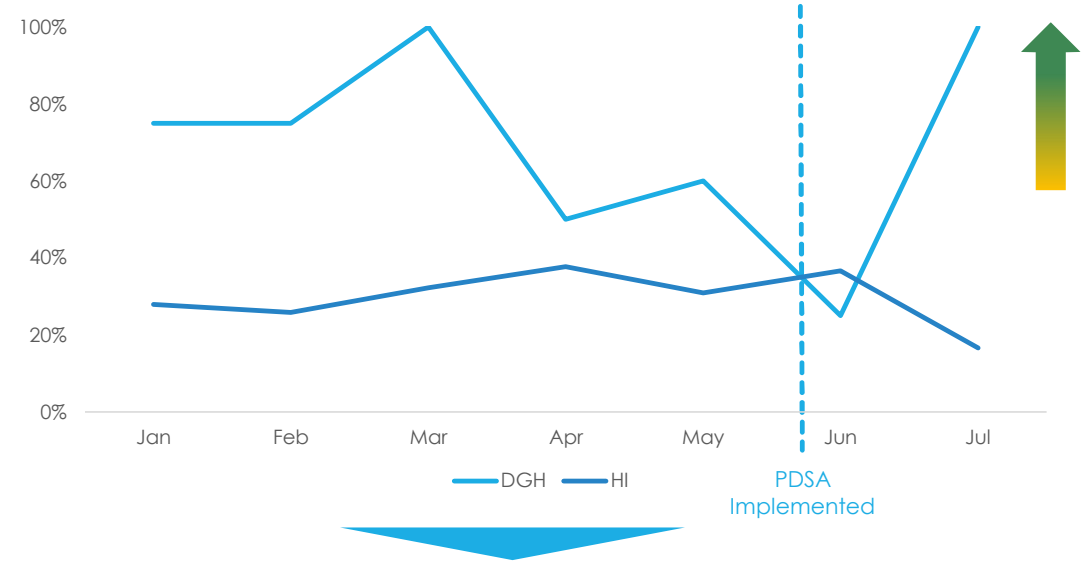
Next Steps

Recommendation:
- Adopt current processes as implemented.
- Continue to monitor and follow up when process is not followed.

Future Considerations:
- Pilot scheduling an elective case in wait list rooms.

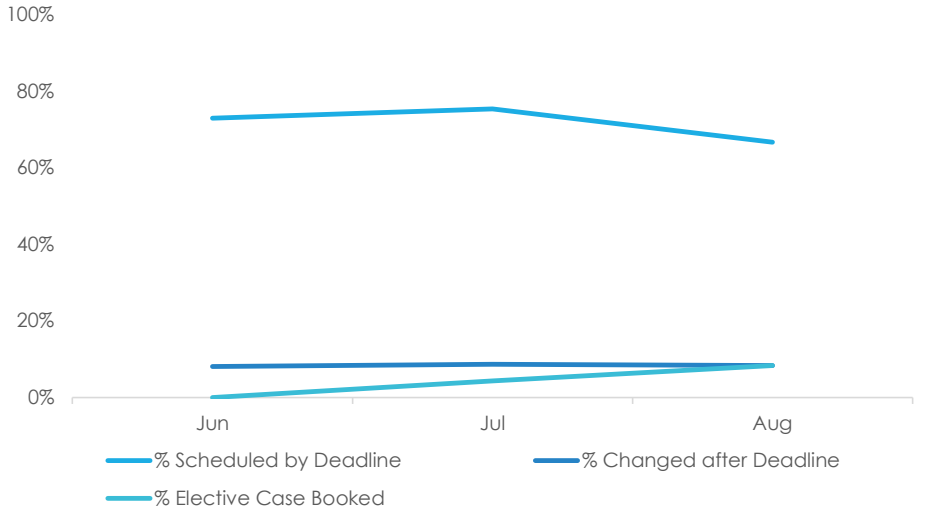
2 **Results & Impact**: Schedule A Waitlist Or Short Elective Case Prior To Day Of Surgery As The First Case Of The Day In Waitlist Rooms

Percent of On-Time Starts in Waitlist Rooms (before and within the first 5mins) (CZ)



- Upon implementation, HI saw a 6% improvement in on time starts, however performance deteriorated in July.
- Dartmouth's performance initially decreased in June, however saw a marked improvement in July.

First Case in Waitlist Room Process Performance



- Since implementation in June, most services have scheduled the first wait list case by the deadline, and made minimal changes to the scheduled case.
- A small portion of cases scheduled have been elective.

Source: On-Time Starts PAR NS. First Case Wait List Process Manually Collected Data.