

Project Title

Improving waiting time for Transthoracic Echocardiogram (TTE) for Stroke patients admitted in the Acute Stroke Unit (ASU)

Project Lead and Members

Project lead: Chuang Ding Fang

Project members:

NNI: A/Prof Josiah Chai (Senior Consultant-Neurology), Fu LiQing (Nurse Clinician), Dr Carol Tham (Consultant-Neurology), Ng Wai May (DDN-APN), Tan Il Fan (Nurse Clinician-APN), Goh Mei Lian (Staff Nurse)

TTSH: Dr Evelyn Lee (Senior Consultant-Cardiology), Rozana Bte Arshad (Senior Nurse Manager), Janice Ong (Nurse Clinician-ASU), Johnsten Wee (Clinic Manager-NICL), Katinah Bte Karmin (Assistant Supervisor-PSA)

Organisation(s) Involved

National Neuroscience Institute (TTSH Campus)

Aims

Transthoracic Echocardiogram (TTE) is often used to determine cardiac sources of stroke or TIA. Early identification of stroke mechanism facilitates early treatment and secondary prevention strategies.

Only 50% of patients admitted under Neurology can obtain their TTE within 3 working days. This translate to longer inpatient stay and exposes patients to all the risks related to long inpatient stay.

We aimed to identify the various root causes of delay to the TTE and tackled them individually.

Background

See attached

Methods

See attached

Results

See attached

Lessons Learnt

- Every person in the team is equally important. Getting everyone's opinion helps us see one workflow in different ways and this opens up our eyes to issues and trouble we may not be aware of.
- It is not just a joint collaboration between NNI and TTSH, this project has enhanced inter-professional collaboration among different level of healthcare workers to improve patient care.
- Getting people to agree upon one final decision is never easy but we learnt on ways to compromise and persuade, this in itself, is a life lesson.

Conclusion

See attached

Project Category

Care Redesign

Keywords

Care Redesign, Efficient Care, Average Turnaround Time, Workflow Improvement, National Neuroscience Institute, Transthoracic Echocardiogram, Acute Stroke Unit, Neurology, Non-Invasive Cardiac Lab, Cause Effect Diagram, Pareto Chart, Improvement Tool

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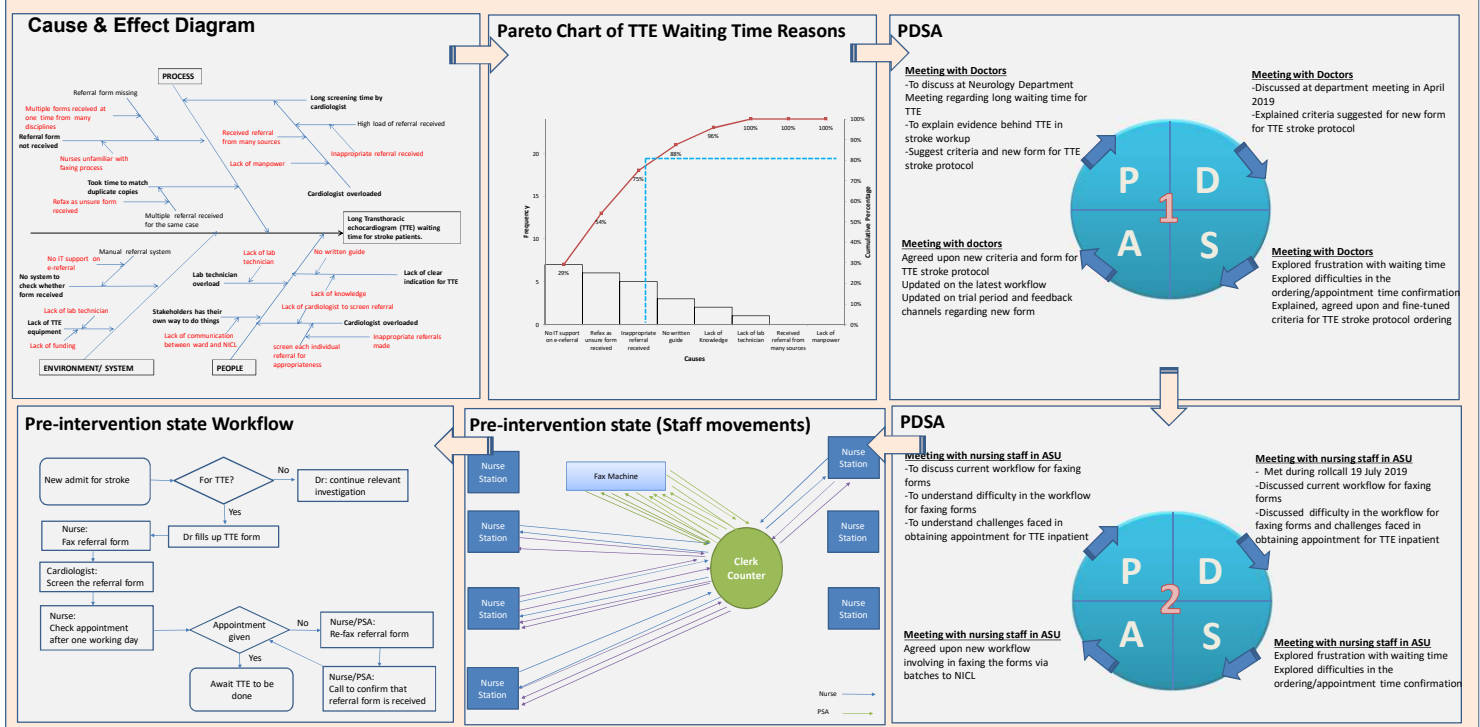
Problem worth solving

TTE is often used to determine cardiac sources of stroke or TIA. Early identification of stroke mechanism facilitates early treatment and secondary prevention strategies. Only 50% of patients admitted under Neurology can obtain their TTE within 3 working days. This translate to longer inpatient stay and exposes patients to all the risks related to long inpatient stay

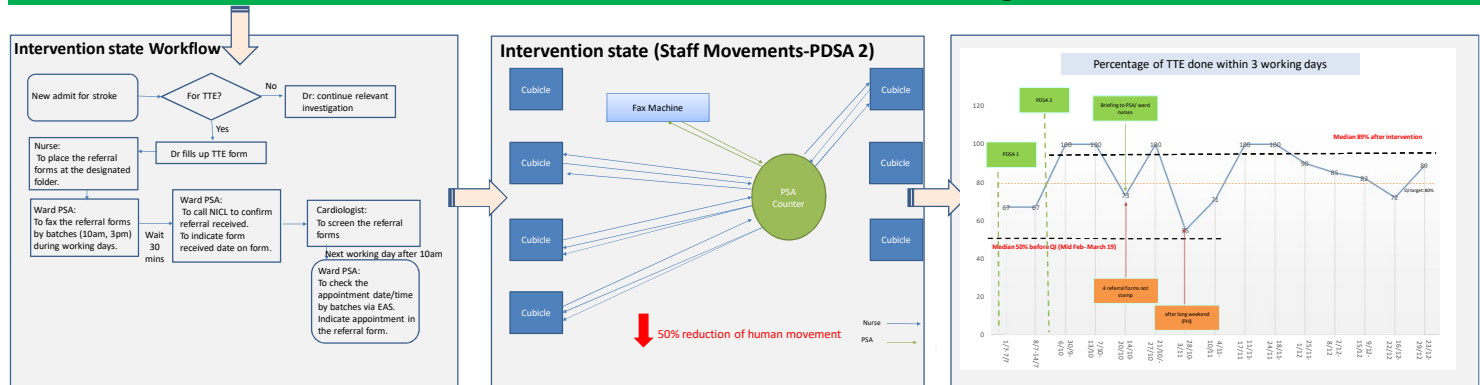
Mission statement

80% of stroke patients admitted to Acute Stroke Unit and requiring TTE will complete their investigation within 3 working days in 3 months

Improvement activity



Results. Celebration and spread



In summary, the QI project was able to achieve a median of >80% of stroke patients admitted to the ASU and completed their TTE investigation within three working days. The streamlined referral process has resulted in reduced length of stay in the hospital and facilitated with appropriate early treatment. Furthermore, it has enhanced efficiency by reducing waste e.g. cut down unnecessary staff's movement.