



Singapore Healthcare Management **2018**

Redesigning the workflow of Pre-sterilization of X-ray instruments

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Aim

To streamline the process of basic cleaning of X-ray positioning holders.

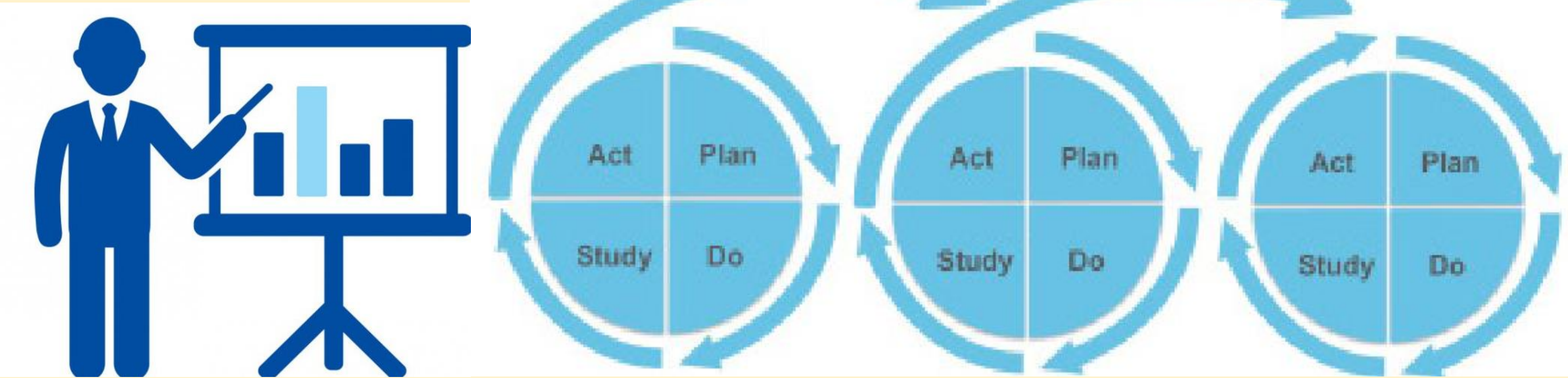
Background

Soaking of non-expendable dental supply (ie. X-ray positioning holders) contaminated by patients' saliva and/or blood in recommended disinfecting solution was practiced as an essential first step before disinfection and sterilization to prepare these used items for safe handling for further decontamination when they were sent to the Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD). It had been identified that there is an opportunity to streamline the process as soaking of used items in disinfectant is only necessary if used supplies are filled with debris or are very bloody and cannot be rinsed or wiped. (X-ray positioning holders could be easily rinsed for this basic cleaning step.)

Methodology

➤ **Value Stream Mapping Approach** was adopted to map out the process steps, identify waste and co-create the new workflow with inputs of Nurse Manager from the Infection Control Committee and in-charge of CSSD

➤ Small-scale interventions were piloted using Deming's **PDSA** cycles before institutionalizing the practices.

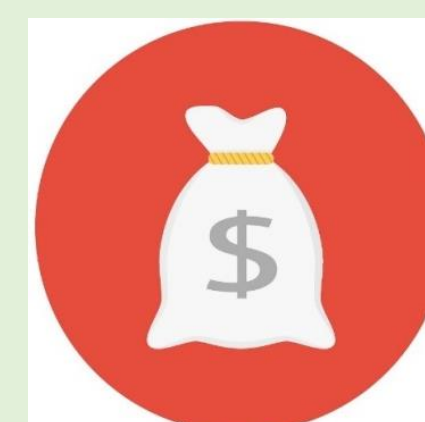


Results

The storage space in the shared flammable cabinets were freed up



Environmentally friendly as the use of chemical is eliminated.



Annual saving of \$5400 for the department.

Actions Taken

- Proposed workflow was implemented for a trial period of one week.
- Rationale of new proposed workflow was communicated to fellow colleagues to gain their understanding and cooperation
- Change introduced was simple and minimal, therefore resulting in high level of acceptance and adoption.

Conclusion

The department adopted the newly introduced workflow by replacing the step of soaking contaminated dental supply in disinfecting solution with a simpler step of rinsing with water after use. Although the change is small, it saved \$5400 for the department annually.

This simple project shows that there is always still room to make small improvements in our daily practice. No change is too small, the power of small changes should not be undervalued.