



Introduction

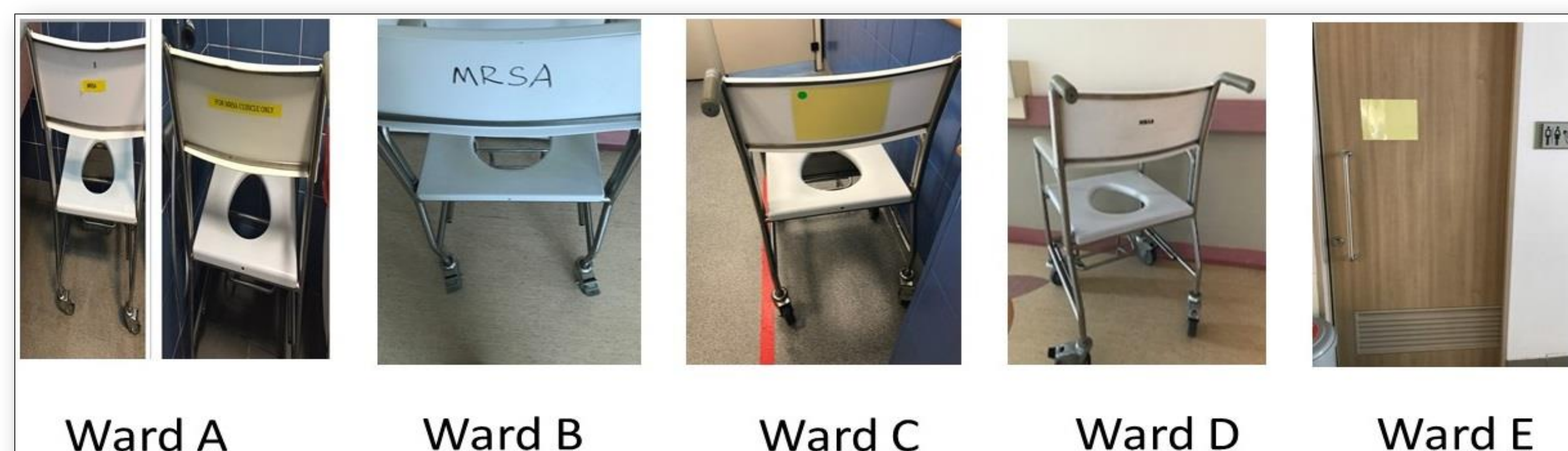
Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) is an escalating problem in hospitals worldwide. Early and appropriate infection control measures are key elements to reduce MRSA transmission and to control the hospital reservoir and spread.

Background

Commode chairs are often used in the general wards for patients requiring assistance for toileting as well as for shower.

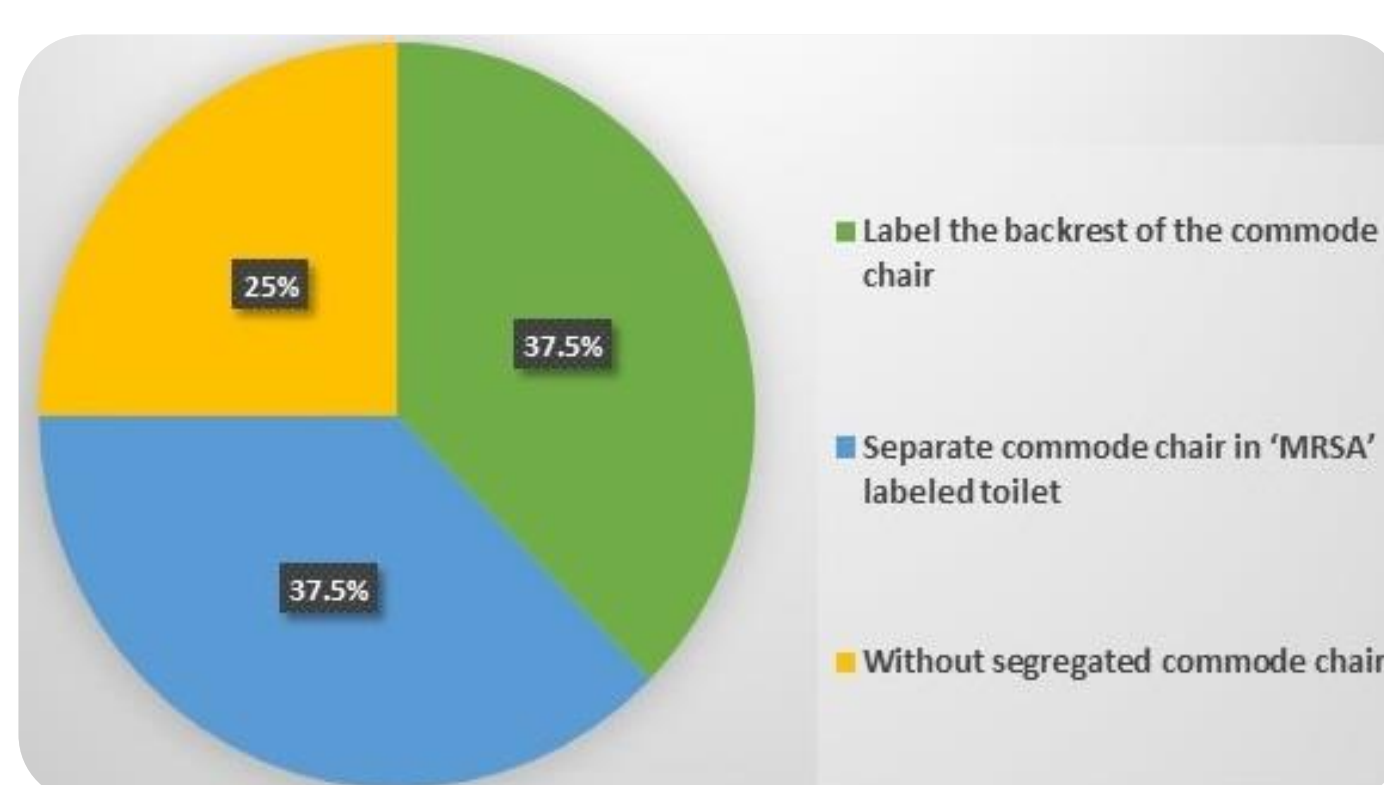


As commode chairs are shared between patients, routine wiped down using mikrozid disinfection wipes are to be performed by staff after each patient use. Beside the standard infection control precautions for MRSA transmission in CGH, various method of segregating commode chair for patients screened positive with MRSA.



A survey conducted across 8 wards with 80 respondents shows the following different practices:

1. Labeling over backrest of commode chairs with the word 'MRSA' -37.5%
2. Placing commode in separate toilet - 37.5%
3. Performing routine wipe down only -25%



Methodology

A Kaizen Improvement was piloted in ward 46 in July 2015 to improve on the current practice while attending to patients with MRSA. The project was aim:

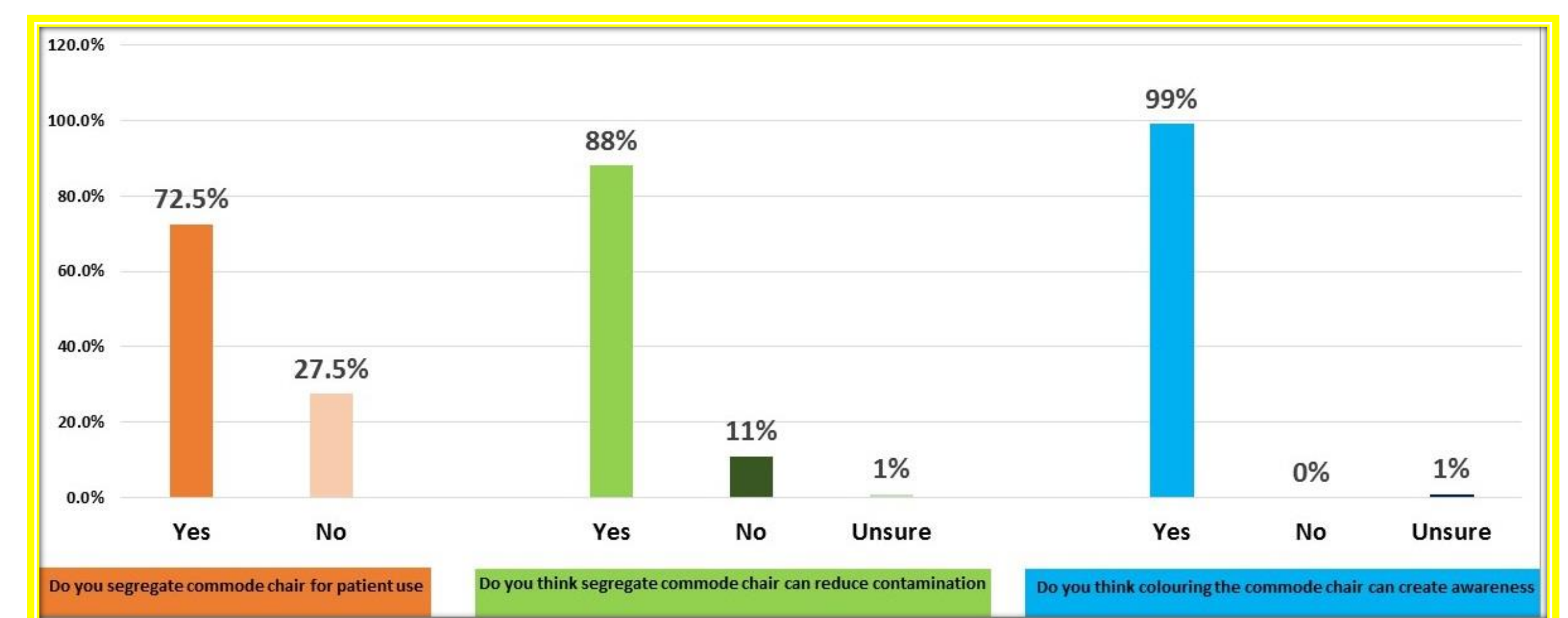
1. To provide direct visual guide for users to segregate commode chairs for MRSA Use
2. To create awareness among healthcare team while attending to patients who are positively screened with MRSA.
3. To enhance infection control practices and prevent cross contamination among patients.
4. To allow easy identification and improve patient safety.
5. To improve staff satisfaction.

A preliminary survey conducted shows **100%** of the staff felt that though the commode chairs are being wiped down using disinfectant wipes between patients, staff were not satisfied with the current practice as:

- The current label 'MRSA' placed at the back of the commode was too small.
- The 'white on black' label tape on commode were not consistent with the standard colour yellow used in CGH to indicate MRSA alerts.



The current practice was reviewed and the idea of changing the backrest of commode chair to be more visual is chosen.

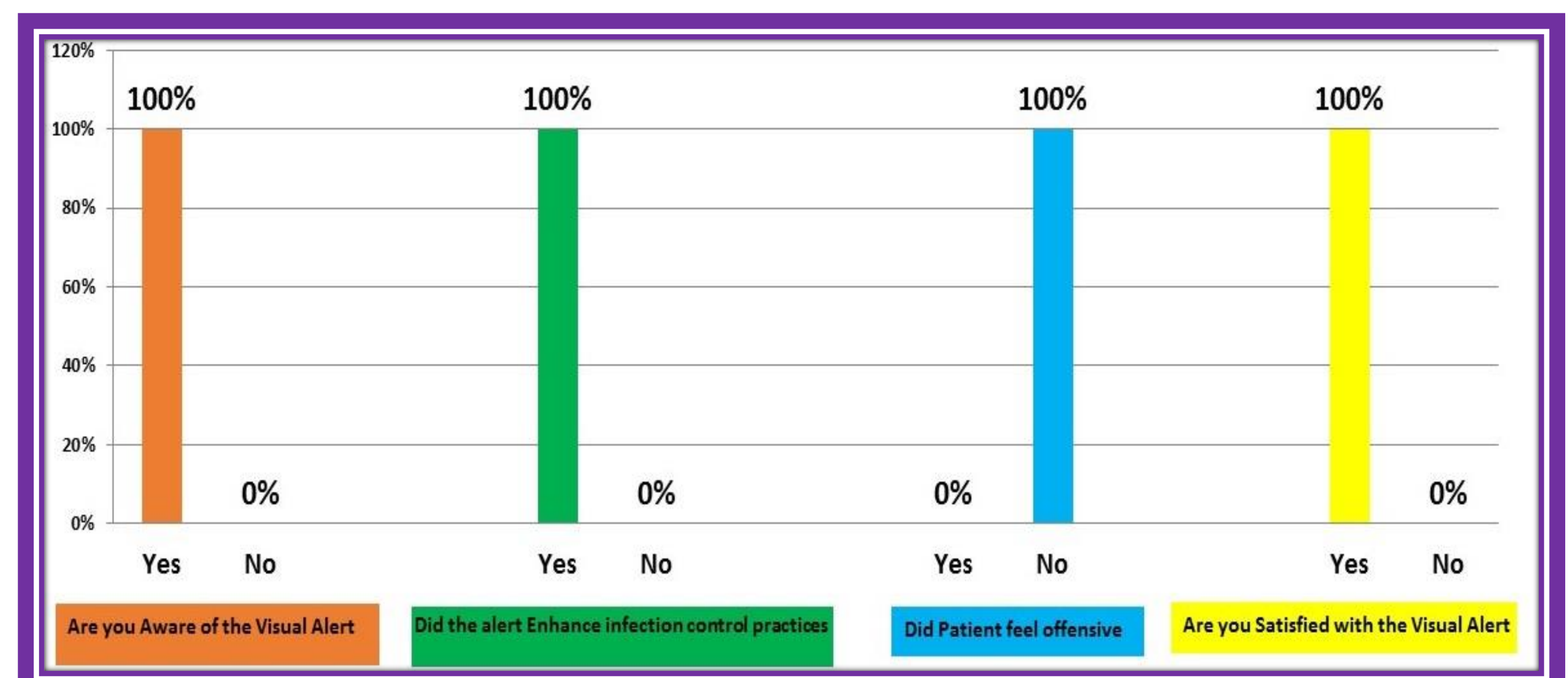


The team worked in consultation with Infection Control and staff from facilities department CGH. Yellow is the standard colour used by our hospital to indicate MRSA alert. Therefore, the Team choose to make the visual cue to be in yellow colour to avoid confusion and provide standardisation.



Outcome

A post implementation survey conducted in ward 46 shows 100% of staff is satisfied as the yellow colour is a standardised colour used to enhance MRSA alerts in the hospital.



The visual cue over commodes is easy to identify with MRSA and enhanced infection control practice.

Conclusion

MRSA is transmitted by the contact route. The main mode of transmission of MRSA is via hands of health care workers or MRSA contaminated surfaces. The project is in line with CGH Infection Control a measure which is to provide an automatic alert for healthcare workers attending to patient with positive MRSA. This project enhances infection control practices and prevent cross contamination among patients.