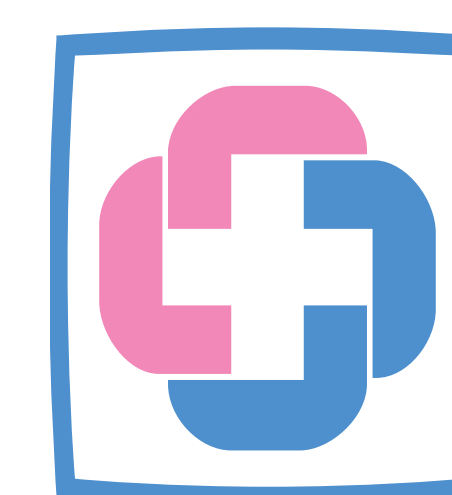




Reducing Waste Pipe Chokes in KK Women's and Children's Hospital

Singapore Healthcare
Management 2019



KK Women's and
Children's Hospital
SingHealth

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1. Waste Pipe Chokes in KKH

- One of the most disruptive facilities breakdown in KK Hospital
- Causes great disturbance to operations when waste water overflow out of the floor traps → significant hygiene impact on infection control towards patients' care.
- In December 2017, an initiative was implemented to conduct study into the root cause of the high frequency of choke incident in the hospital and to implement a holistic resolution to greatly reduce the occurrence of waste pipe chokage.

2. Aim

- Implement solutions within 3 months (Jan'18 to Mar'18) to reduce the overall numbers of waste pipe chokes by 35% from April 2018 onwards

3. Methodology

PLAN

Data Analysis

Perform data analytics to identify trends and relationship to draw conclusions in developing action plan.

DO

Conduct Experiment

Field tests were conducted to test the dissolvability of common paper products used within the Hospital and concluded that the current hand towel and wet wipes were totally not dissolvable.

CHECK

Engagement Session

Engagement session was held with Nursing Department to present the findings, statistics, solutions and to receive feedbacks with exploration of possible action plan to achieve the objective.

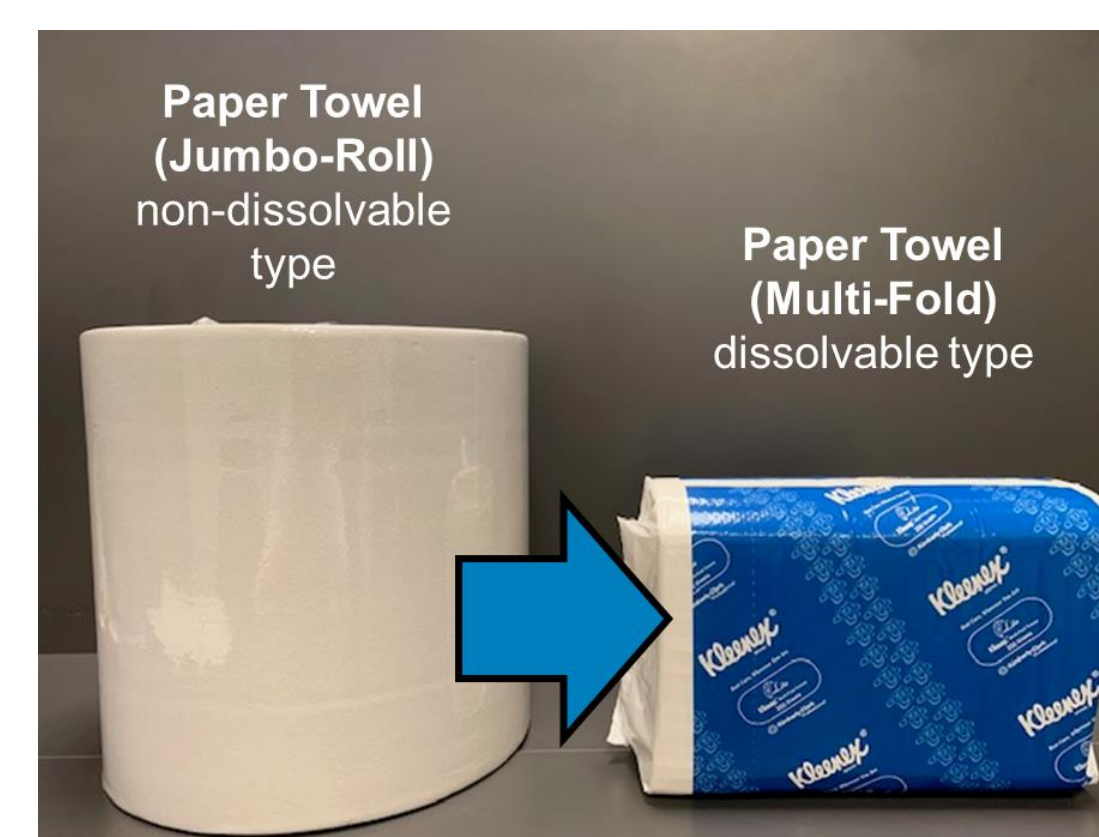
ACTION

Implement Solutions

In March 2018, action plan was established to implement the solutions within the same month :

- Replacement to dissolvable paper towels.
- Patients / Care-givers engagement during admission.
- Continuous Monitoring of Choke

4. Solution

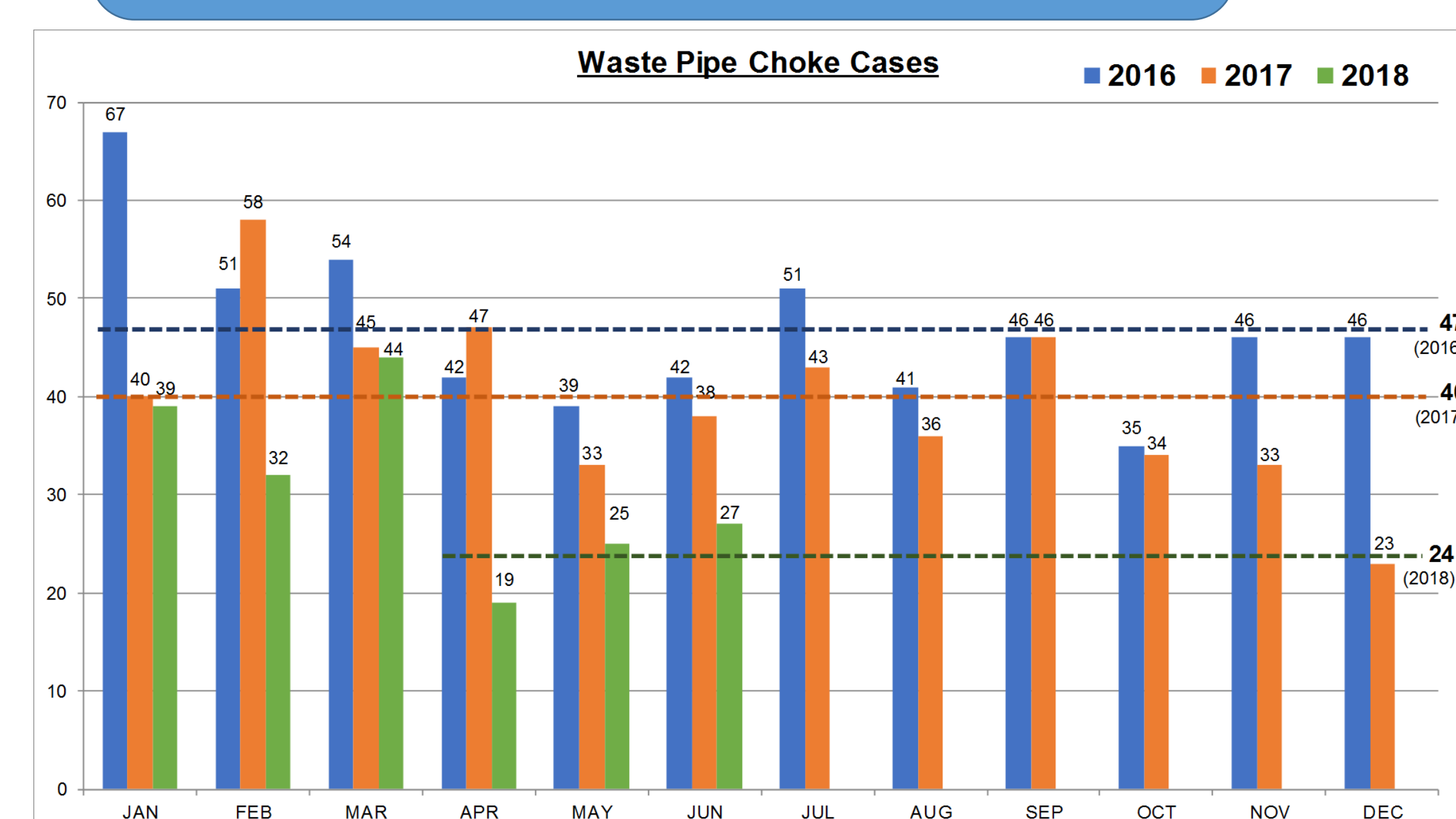


Current paper hand towels (jumbo-roll type) in all public toilets, patients' toilets and nursing utility rooms are replaced with the dissolvable paper hand towels (multi-fold type).

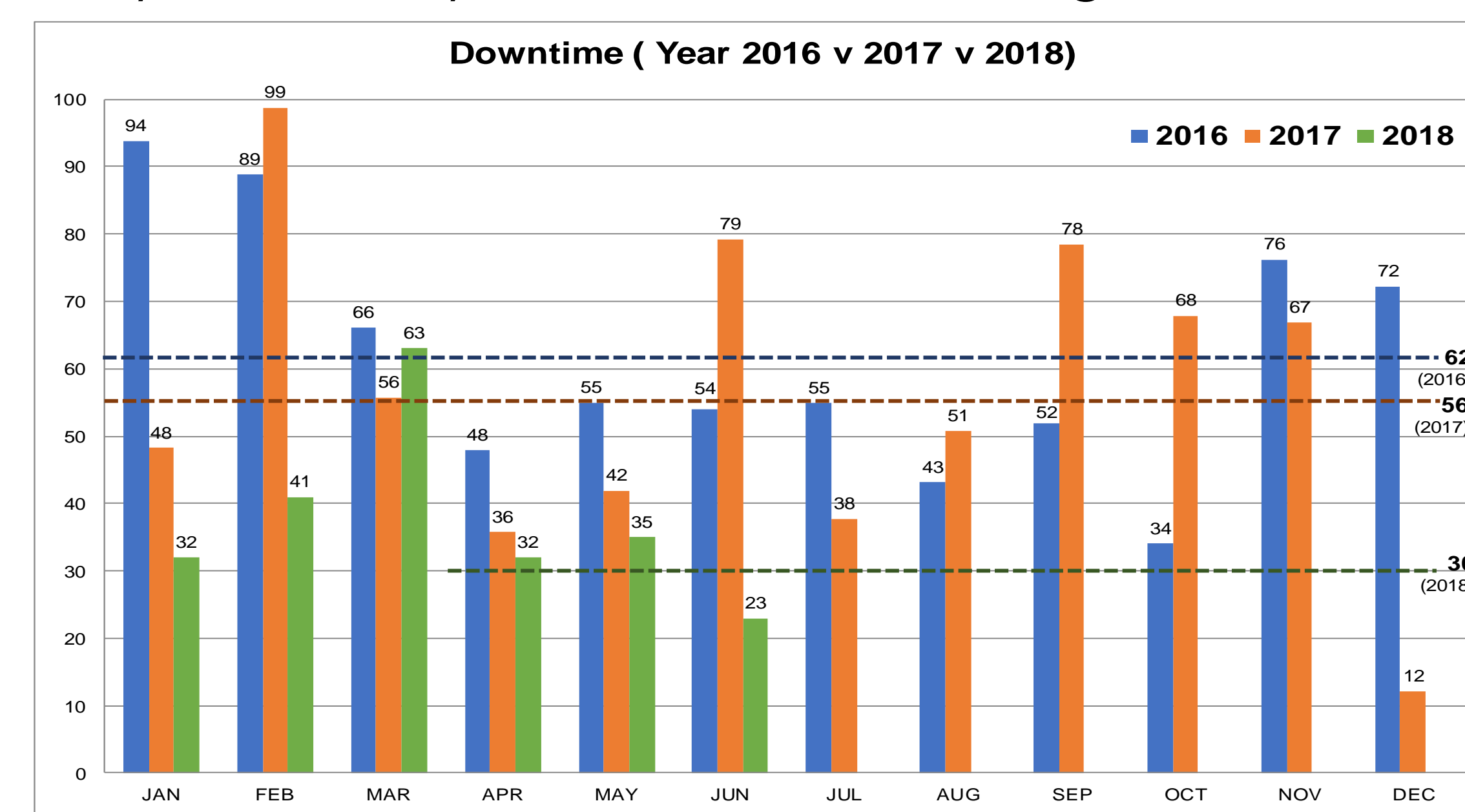
Patients and their care-givers will be briefed by nursing staff during admission on the proper disposal of paper hand towels, wet wipes and miscellaneous items. Posters are also in-place in patients' toilet to create reminder & awareness.



5. Conclusion



Improvement of 40% in reducing wastepipe choke for Apr, May & Jun 2018 from an average of 40 cases every month in year 2017 to an average of 24 cases.



Improvement of 46% in reducing disruption to clinical operation for Apr, May & Jun 2018 from an average of 56 hours every month in year 2017 to an average of 30 hours.

The reduction of wastepipe chokes lessens the need for unplanned manpower deployment from Nursing, Housekeeping and FM; allowing Nurses to focus on patient care and improve overall patients experience.