



Singapore Healthcare Management 2022

Smoothing Nursing Transfer Process to other institutions with a Checklist



Singapore General Hospital
SingHealth

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Introduction

Singapore General Hospital Ward 58ID is an Isolation Ward, which cares for patients from various disciplines. Patients discharge to other institutions for step down care is often seen, such as long-term care in the Nursing Home, slow strength rehabilitation in the Community Hospitals, and palliative care in Inpatient Hospice settings. There are always a delay on the discharge day, which caused by the coordination is not optimal and items that needs to be obtained or arranged are missed out. Nurses spend a lot of time coordinating the discharge, which may compromise nursing care to other patients. Therefore, this project aims to reduce nurse's timing on discharging patients to other institutions on the day of transfer to less than 30 minutes in W58 ID within 6 months.

The project simplifies the process by having of checklist with checkboxes to indicate if required items/documents are available upon discharge.

Methodology

Team members brainstormed on the possible root causes that contribute to the problem. A cause & effect diagram is used to categorize and list down all the possible root causes. Possible root causes are highlighted in red.

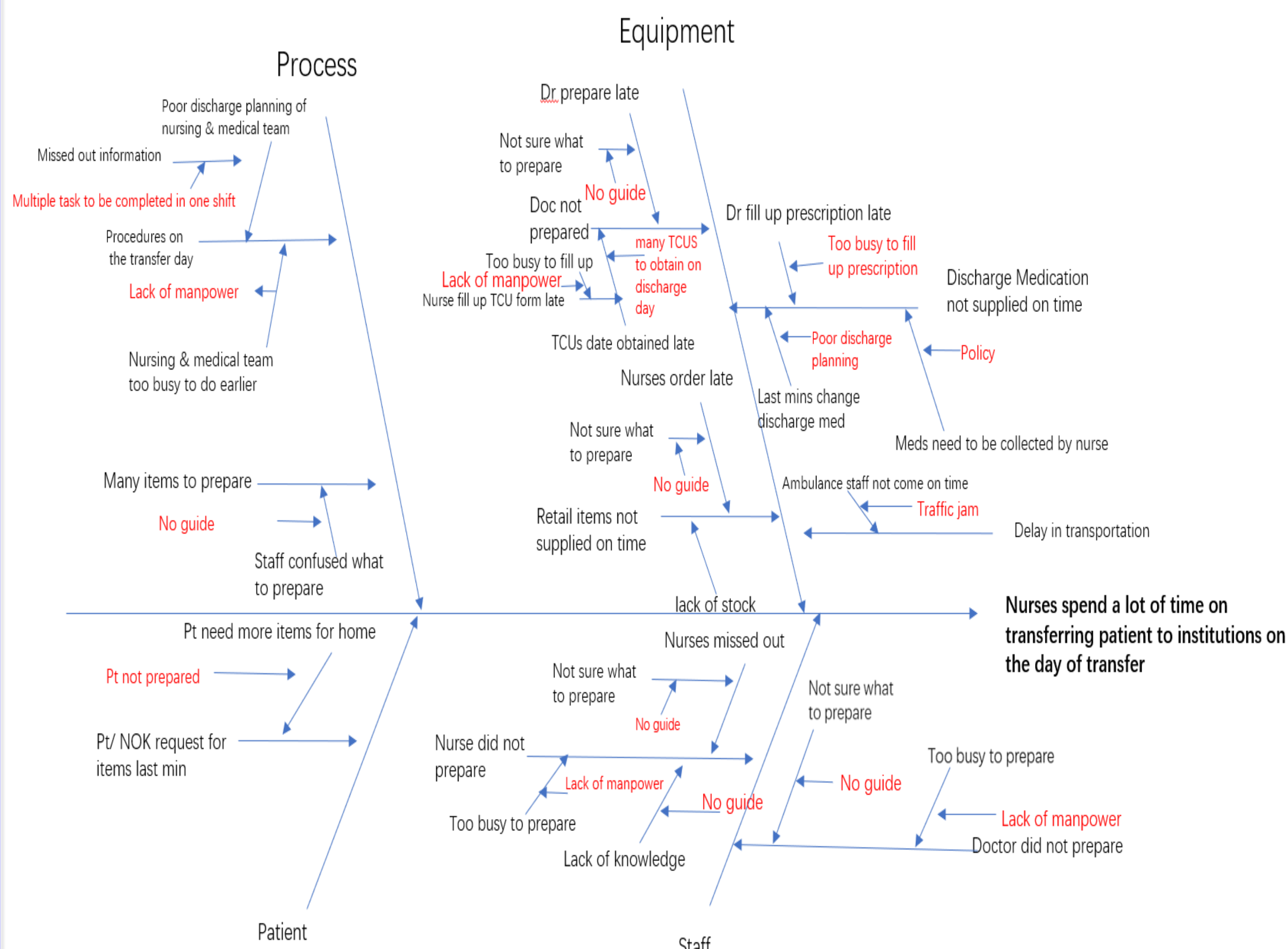


Figure 1: Cause & Effect Diagram

Multi-voting was conducted, and Pareto principle was applied to narrow down from the many possible root causes to a vital few that contributed to 80% of the problem. These final root causes include:

- No checklist/guideline to follow
- Many appointments to obtain on discharge day

Pareto Chart of contributing root causes

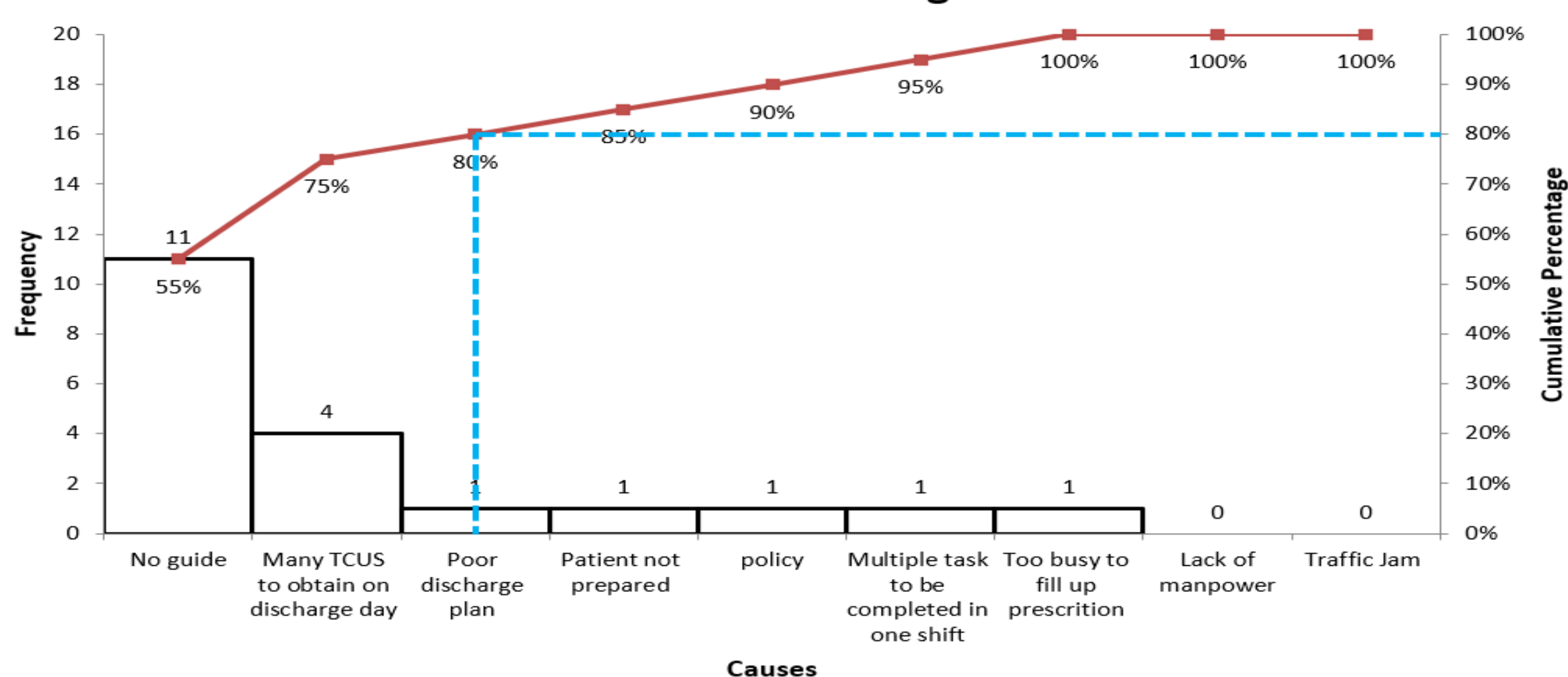


Figure 2: Pareto chart

Team developed possible solutions targeting on the two final root cases that were identified from the Pareto chart. A tree diagram and prioritization matrix is used to select the possible solutions for PDSAs

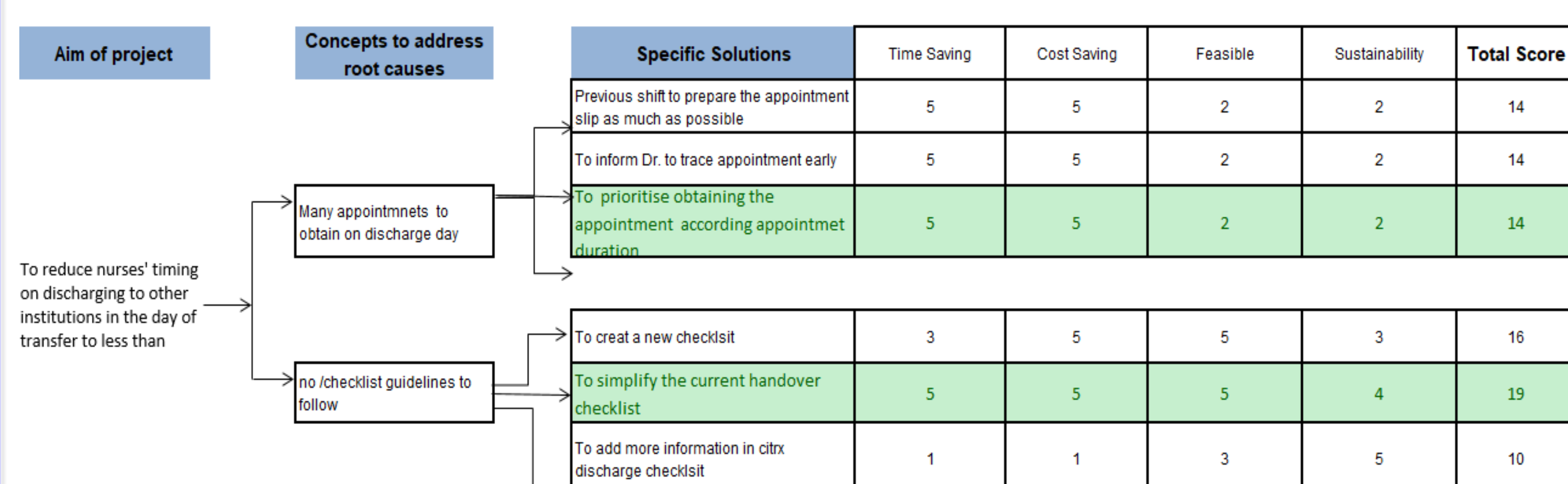


Figure 3: Tree Diagram

Checklist

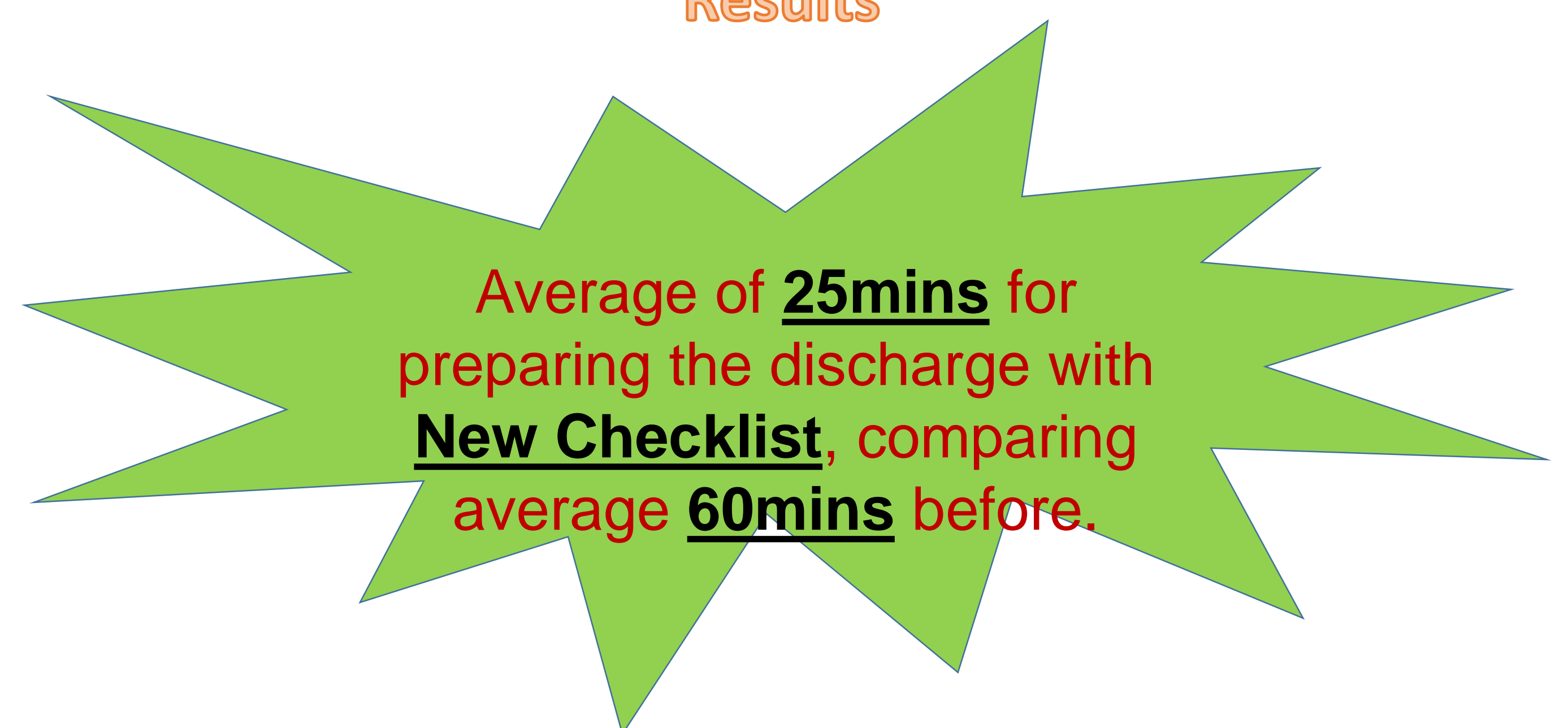
Team has modified a detailed checklist and add on the checkboxes for nurses to indicate if the items/documents are available upon discharge.

Transfer Item Checklist (Tick / Delete where appropriate)			
Documents	Accompanying Items		
	Detailed Hospital Inpatient Discharge Summary (HIDS)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Referral Letter / Memo	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Latest laboratory investigation records (ECG, Blood Test)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Latest X-rays/scan records	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	COVID swab results and memo faxed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Speech therapist report	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	MSW report	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Dietitian report	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Physiotherapist report	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Occupational therapist report	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Latest wound chart	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Follow up appointments	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Others (pls specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Consumables	Dressing materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Feeds / Thicker / Supplements	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Discharge medications (with / without CD) (pls specify when medications was last given)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Patient's Own Medications	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Transfer equipments eg: Oxygen Therapy, Oral Suctioning etc. (pls specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Others (pls specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Patient's belongings	Hearing aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Spectacles	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Footwear	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Dentures (Upper / Lower / Upper & Lower)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Handphone (with/ without charger)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Wheelchair/ Walking aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	Identification Card (or a copy)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
Others (pls specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		

Issued by: _____ Name & Signature of Staff (Handing over) _____ Date & Time _____

Figure 4: Part of checklist

Results



- Less enquiries from other institutions after transfer patient 🍌
- Nurses knows what to prepare before being prompted by the other institutions 🍌
- Easy to handover to the next nursing shift 🍌
- Less miscommunication on preparing documents 🍌
- Doctor knows what to prepare 🍌
- Seamless discharge without delay 🍌

Conclusion

- The new initiative improved the coordination and reduced the time spend on the nurses, which leads to seamless discharge without delay. The project increases bed utilization in SGH and prevents bed congestion in Emergency Department by allocate the bed faster for urgent admission.
- Patients' safety is not compromised for continuity of care upon discharge, as staff in other institutions are mentally prepared.
- Our team hopes that this project will be used by other hospitals under Singhealth, which will standardize the discharge process to other step down facilities and increase the bed utilization rate.