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Enhancement of patient pregnancy signage at Department of Diagnostic Radiology at Singapore General Hospital

Heng Ai Ling, Sng Li Hoon, Cesar Ferrer Laudato, Tan Hwee Siah, Tan Chin Chong
Singapore General Hospital



INTRODUCTION:

The Department of Diagnostic Radiology (DDR) has strict rules and regulations to manage female patients of reproductive age for procedures involving radiation.

A pregnancy signage is placed at the changing areas to inform patients to let the staff know should they be or may be pregnant prior to procedures involving radiation (Fig. 1).

During the 2014 Joint Commission International audit, it was advised that a pictorial pregnancy signage would improve effectiveness in instructing these patients.

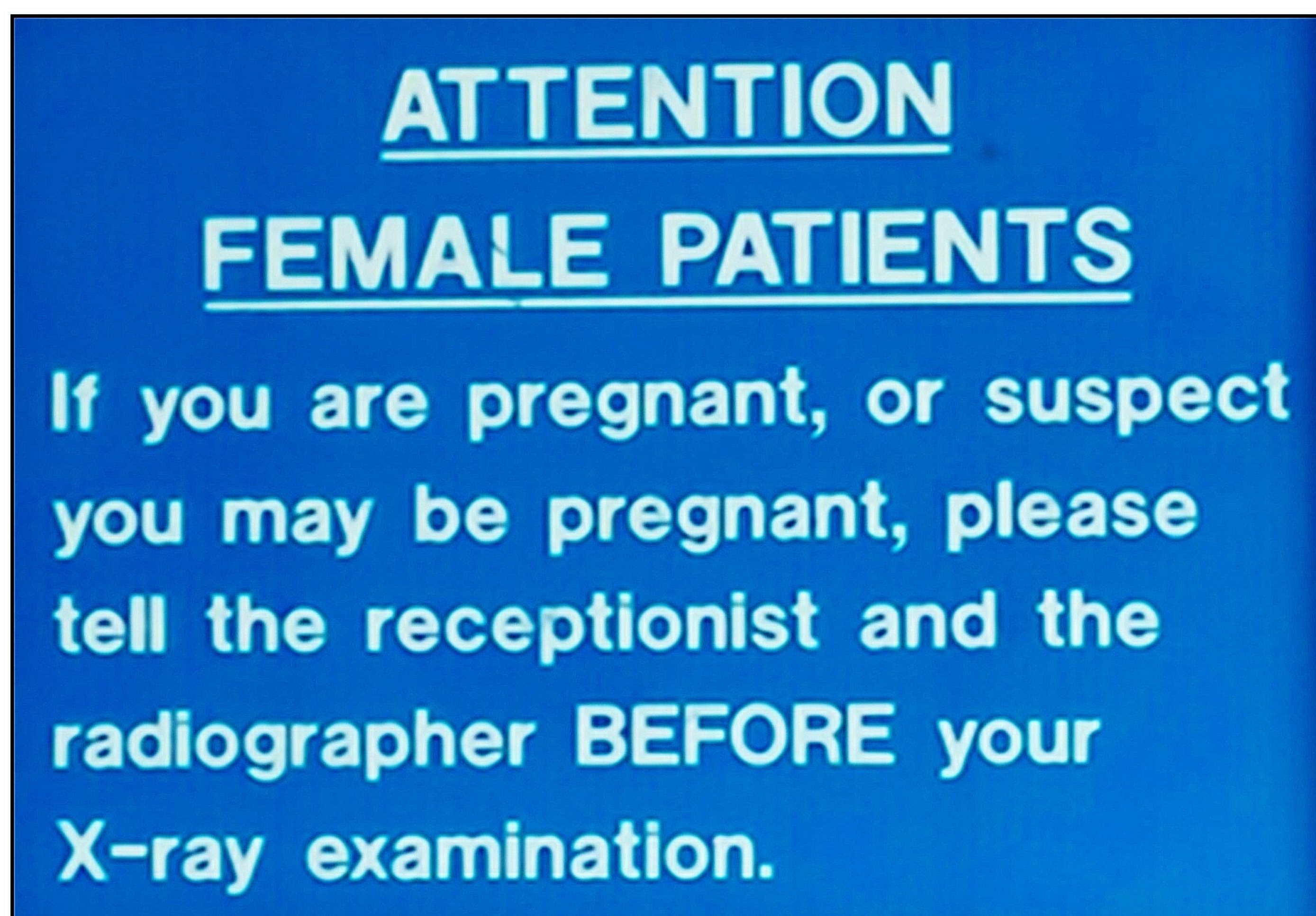
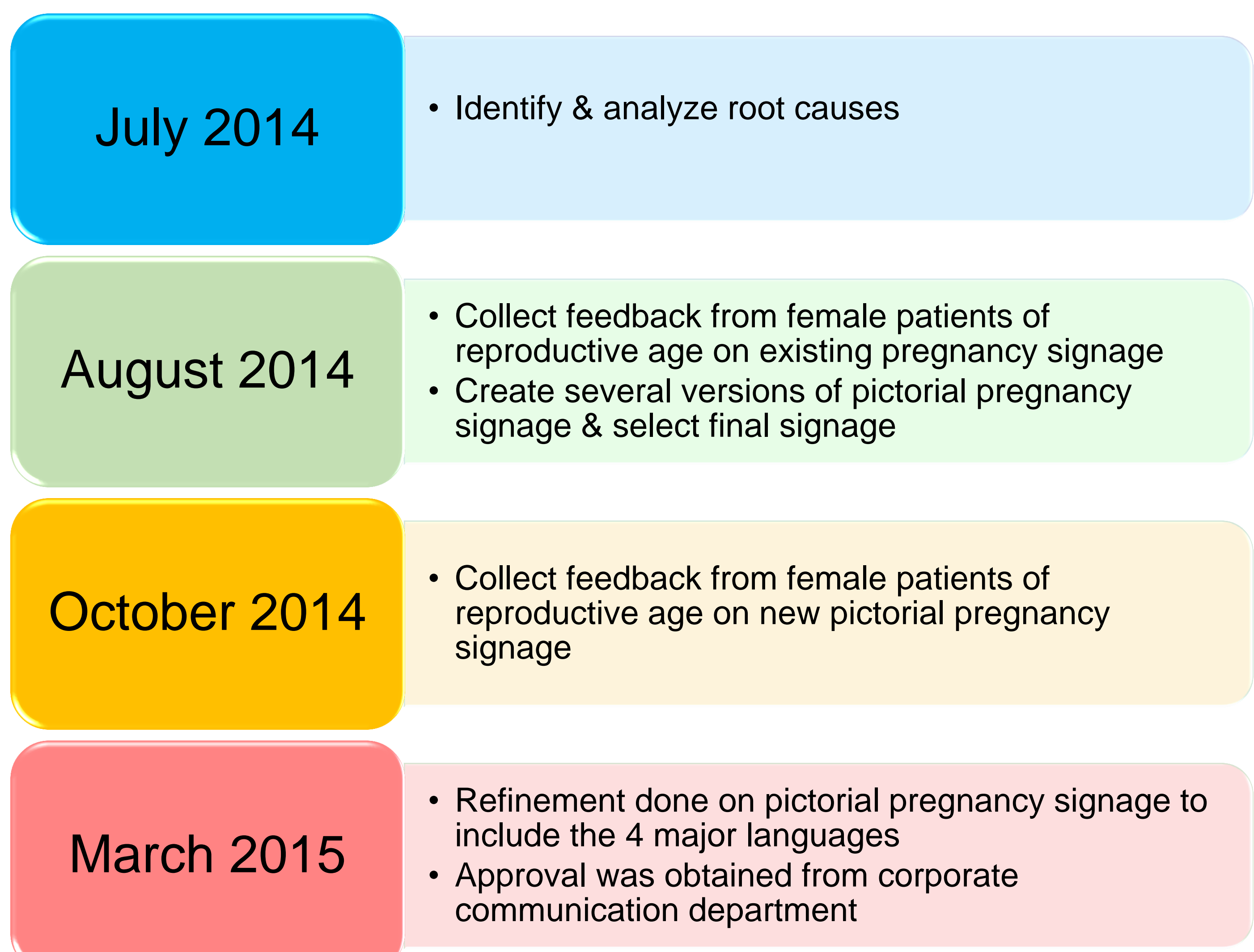


Fig. 1 – Previous pregnancy signage

AIM:

To provide pictorial pregnancy signage to female patients suspected of pregnancy to notify radiographer before procedure.

METHODOLOGY:



DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTION:

Feedback in the form of survey was obtained from 100 female patients of reproductive age to find out if they noticed the pregnancy signage before and after intervention.

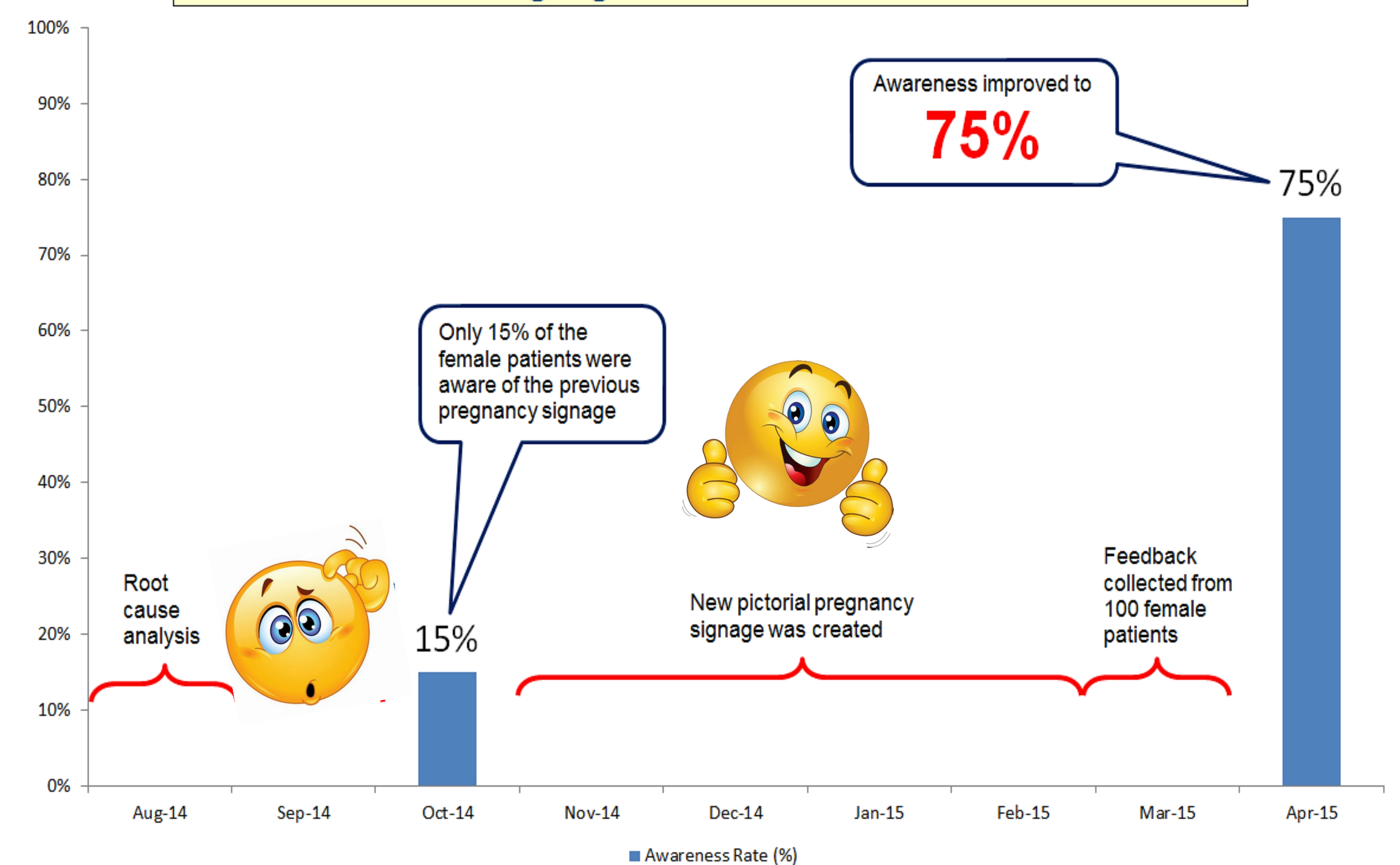
RESULTS:

Pre-intervention, 85% of female patients did not notice the pregnancy signage at all. Post-intervention, 75% of the female patients noticed and understood the improved pictorial pregnancy signage (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2 – New pictorial pregnancy signage

Bar chart showing the improved awareness rate of the pregnancy signage after intervention



CONCLUSION:

Benefits to:		
Patients Improve patients' awareness	Department Educate public on radiation safety	Organization Apply to other departments with similar service

FUTURE PLANS:

Apart from DDR, the department of Emergency Medicine & Nuclear Medicine will also be using the same signage. Moving forward, this pictorial pregnancy signage can be applied to other medical institution which provide services involving ionizing radiation too.