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TO IMPROVE METHOD OF LABELING “NO BLOOD PRESSURE OR BLOOD TAKING” PASTED ON PATIENT’S AFFECTED ARM BY USING CUSTOMISED TEMPORARY TATTOO

*Zhuo Bingxin, Chia Swee Khim, Wong Nga Chi, Li Xiaohan, Jenni Kumaravel

Department of Nursing

Changi General Hospital



Background

Patients who have AVF (arteriovenous fistula) created or undergone Mastectomy (removal of breast) are not allowed for blood pressure (BP) or blood taking on the affected arm, to prevent complications such as swelling, damage to the AVF and the lymphatic drainage of the affected arm for patients after Mastectomy.

Over the years, we have been using “micropore tape” to indicate “NO BLOOD PRESSURE OR BLOOD TAKING” on patient’s affected arm. The label looks unpleasant and causes discomfort to patient. When the “tape” is being removed and not replaced, it increases the risk of wrong arm access. Besides, there is no standardized method of labeling.



Solutions

We designed a customized temporary tattoo.



Size: 6x6cm

Advantages:

- Presentable looking
- Clear information with words and pictures
- Nontoxic to skin
- Durable as it can last 3-5 days
- No skin irritation
- Water proof
- Standardized method of labeling
- Bright red color
- Glow-in-the-dark and able to view in dim environment



Glow in the Dark



Dim Environment



Objectives

- To create medical alert to all healthcare providers that “no blood pressure or blood taking” is allowed on the patient’s affected arm, especially in patients who have AVF creation or after Mastectomy.
- To reduce risk of wrong arm access.

Methodology

We conducted survey on 50 staff in 5 wards on opinion using “micropore tape” labeled on patient’s affected arm. 70% of nurses did not like the current method and 20% of nurses had encountered incidences of wrong arm access. Another set of questionnaires were used on 10 patients with AVF or Mastectomy. 90% of patients did not like to use the “micropore tape” as it was ugly and sticky, causing discomfort.

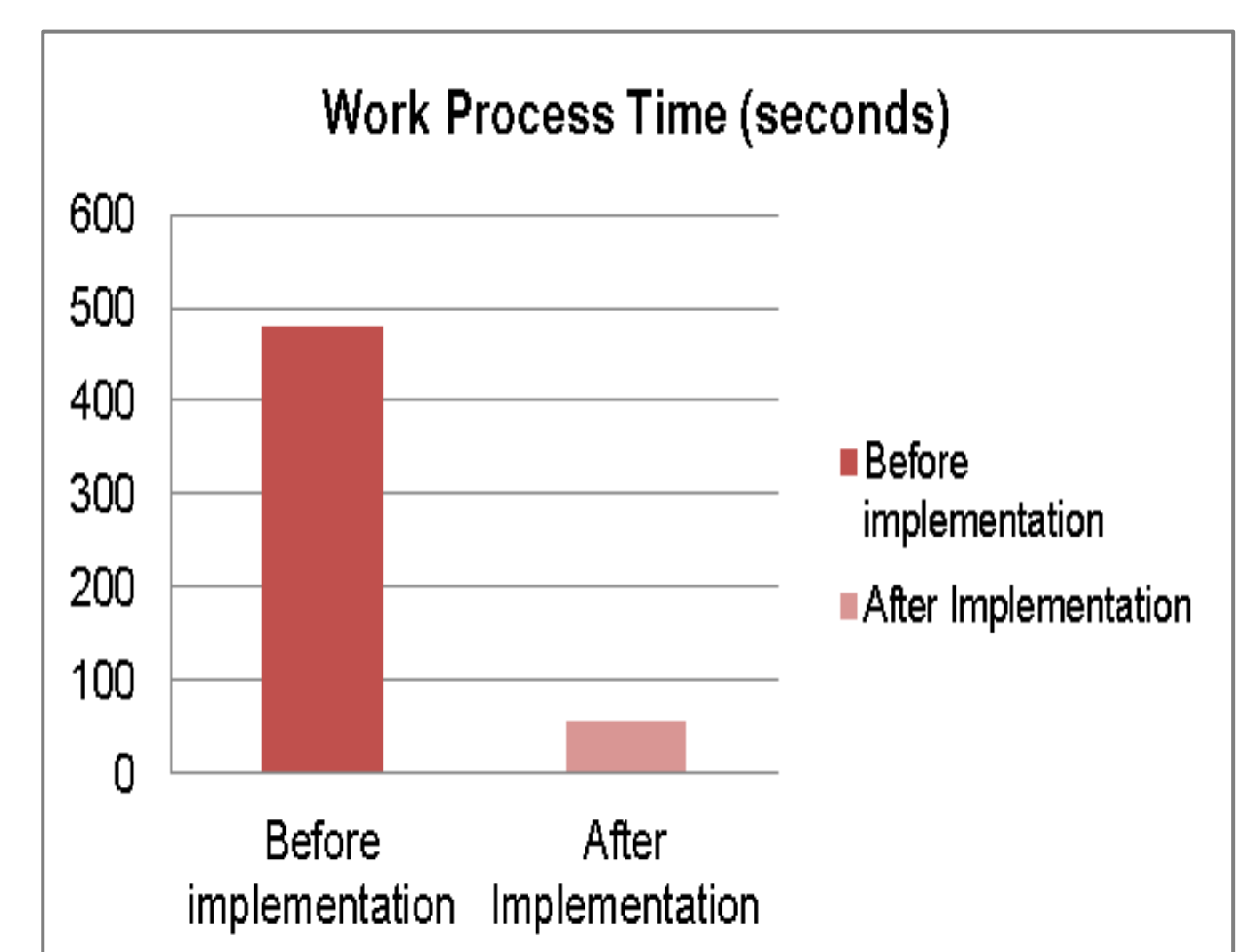
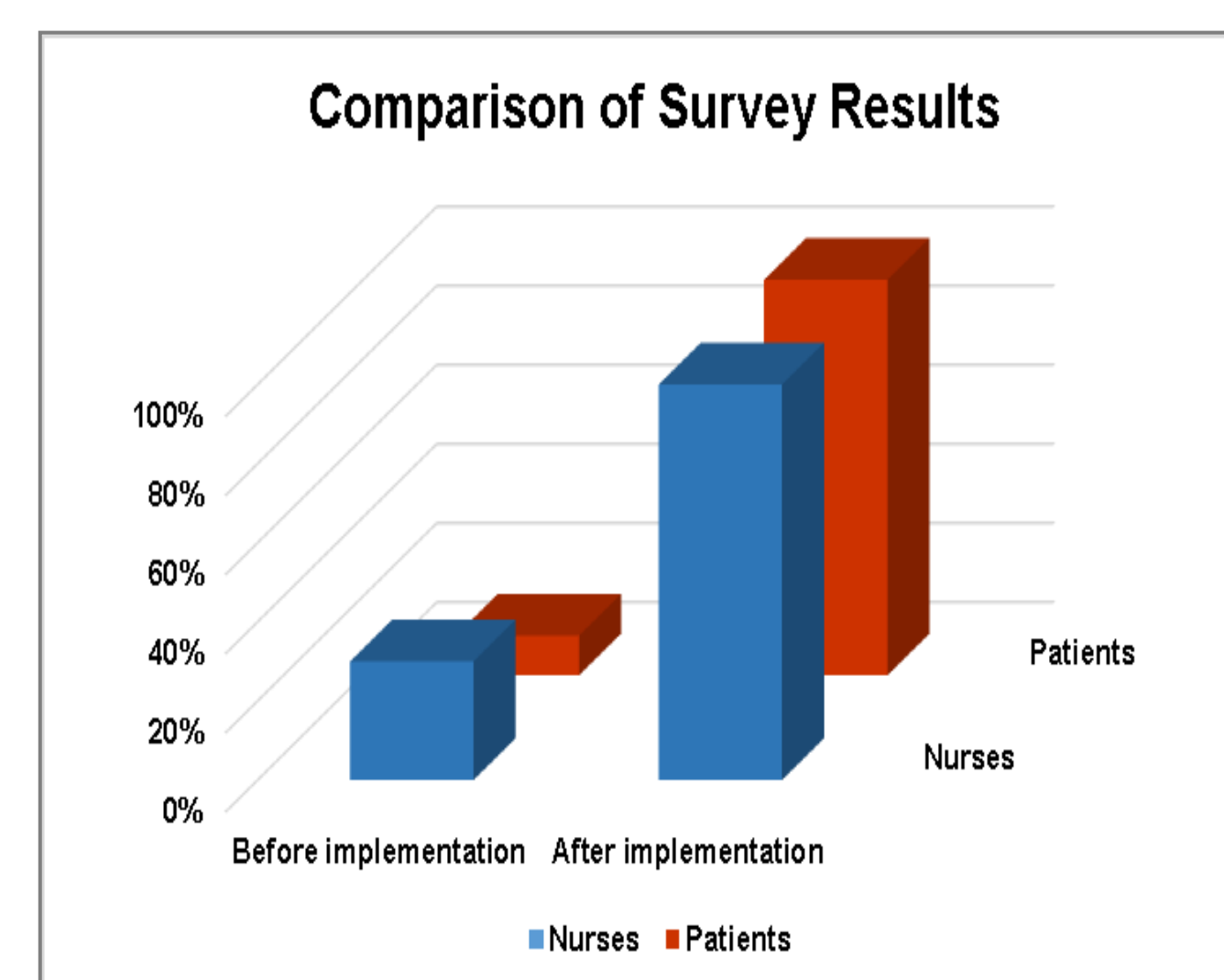
Ishikawa diagram was used to identify root causes after which we used Serendipity technique to guide us in finding the solutions.

Technique	Source of idea	New idea	Pictures of source of idea
Serendipity	One of our member saw a “NO SMOKING” sign in the bus	A bright colour stop sign which attracts attention	
	One of our member saw a online picture of medical alert tattoo used overseas	Medical alert tattoo acts as a reminder for all staff regarding patients’ medical condition	
	Two of our members participated in the National Day Parade preview and used temporary tattoo on their hand	Temporary tattoos allow patients to remove when necessary. On the other hand, the temporary tattoos look presentable to use on patients	
	While walking back home, one of our member saw a “NO PARKING” signage	Signage with words allow information to be convey clearly to all staff	

Results

Post implementation survey was conducted and data analysed.

- 100% of nurses preferred the improved method of labeling (customized temporary tattoo) as they find it easy to apply the temporary tattoo sticker and do not need to change frequently, thus having more time for patients’ care.
- 100% of patients liked the new method of labeling. Patients verbalised that the tattoo sticker is presentable and more comfortable as compared to the “micropore tape”.
- We also achieved time saving of 88% as shown.



Conclusion

Feedback from doctors and allied health staff were positive, as this method of labeling creates better awareness when rendering care to patients. With positive feedback, this project was implemented hospital wide, which include the wards, Operating Theatre, Emergency Department and Endoscopy Suite. This implementation enhances patient comfort and safety, thus enhances our hospital image.

Follow up measures to ensure implementation is sustainable by gathering feedback from users for further improvement and ensuring product availability.