



Quality Improvement in reducing the number of newborns who missed Metabolic Screening at KK Women's and Children's Hospital

Singapore Healthcare Management 2016

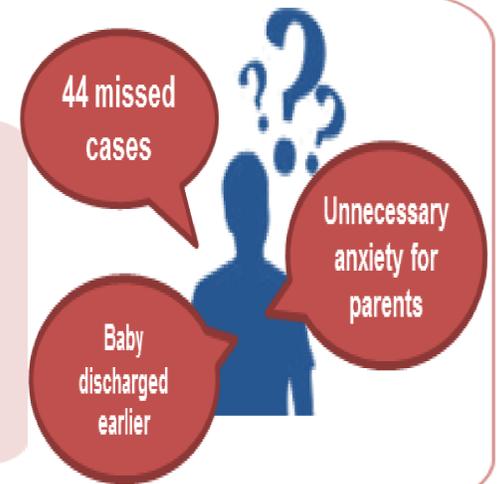


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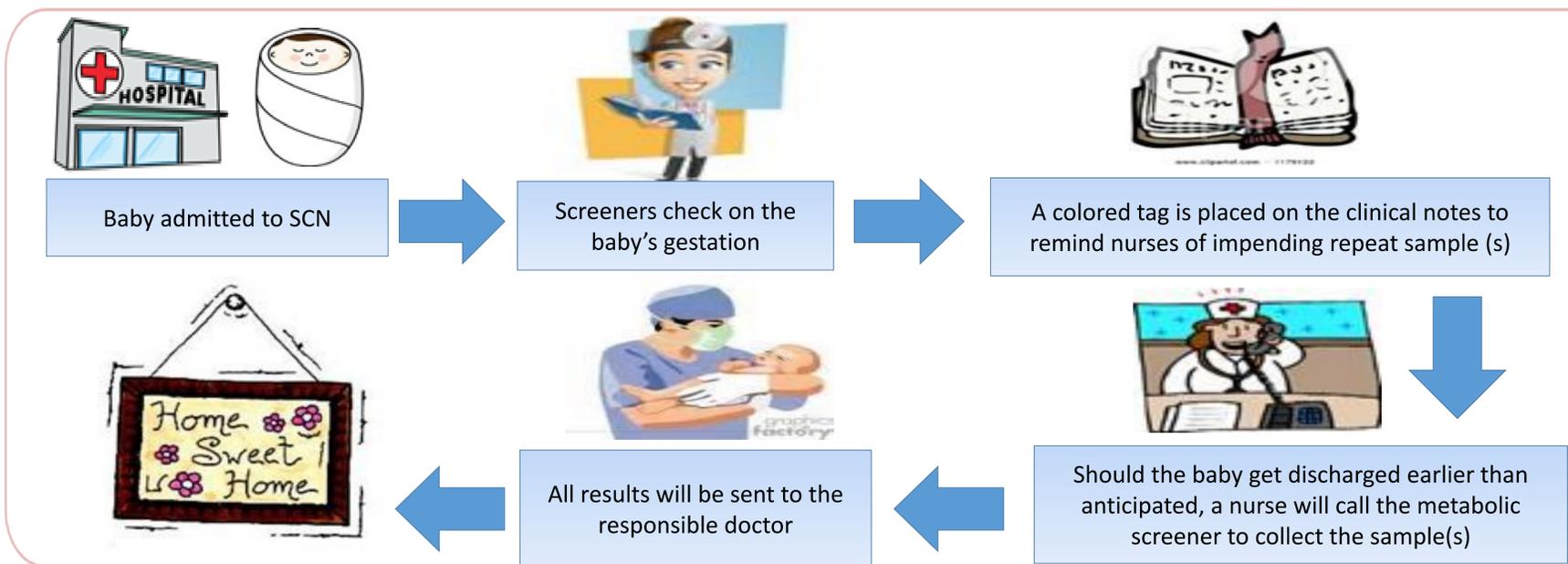
1 Background

At KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH), premature babies born at gestational age of <34 are screened for metabolic disorders within the age of 7 days, 2 weeks and/or at 4 weeks of life. Due to missed sample collection, particularly the 2nd and 3rd sample before discharge, parents have to bring their newborns back to the hospital for retesting. This contributes to financial and emotional burdens for the parents. The aim of this project is to ensure all blood samples are collected before the newborns are discharged.



2 Solutions and Implementation

- ✓ We created recyclable colored tags obtained from disposed packaging material.
- ✓ We used two different colored duct tapes to differentiate between the 2nd sample (green duct tape) and 3rd sample (blue duct tape) for this pilot project.
- ✓ The tags were placed in the clinical case notes to prompt the nurses to collect a repeat sample (s) prior to patient discharge.
- ✓ The nursing managers and nurses collaborated in this project.



3 Results

Between January 2013 and June 2015, there were 44 cases with missed sample due to early discharges. Since the implementation of the new system in July 2015, there are zero missed cases.



4 Conclusion

The implementation significantly reduced the missed sample collection. The expected outcome is a cost saving, process improvement for the hospital and it significantly reduces the parent's anxiety.

