



Singapore Healthcare Management 2016

To initiate 1st bronchodilator therapy for Bronchial Asthma/COPD patients at Triage within 13 minutes

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Introduction

Our Aim:
To increase the percentage of patients with Asthma/COPD receiving Bronchodilator Therapy within 13 minutes from 50% to 85% within 12 months.

An Overview:
More than 120 per month seen in the Emergency Department, Singapore General Hospital, are Asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) patients.
Singapore has one of the highest rates of asthma deaths in the world.
Receiving bronchodilator therapy as early as possible prevents worsening of acute asthma/COPD and improves patient's outcome.

Problems Identified

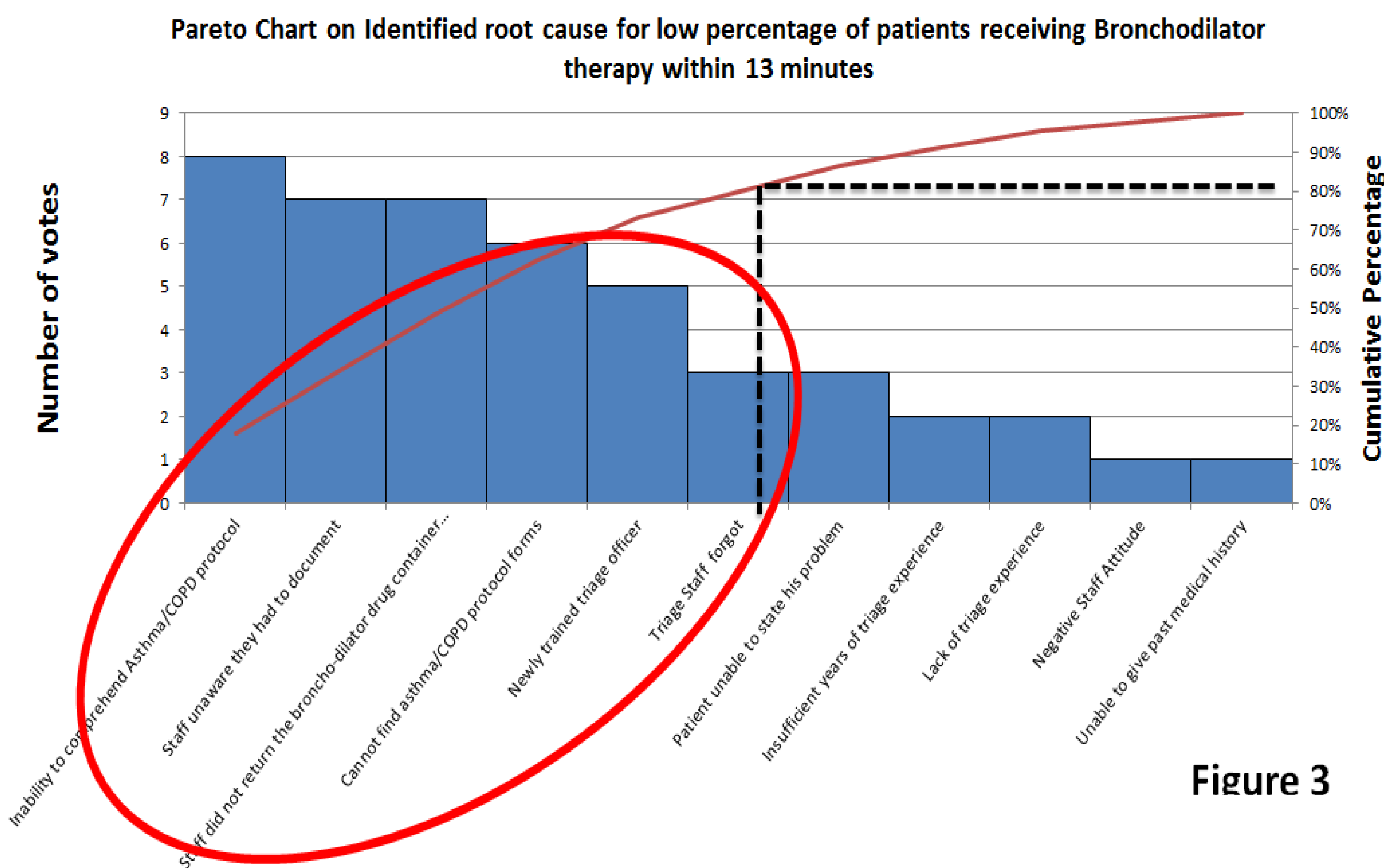
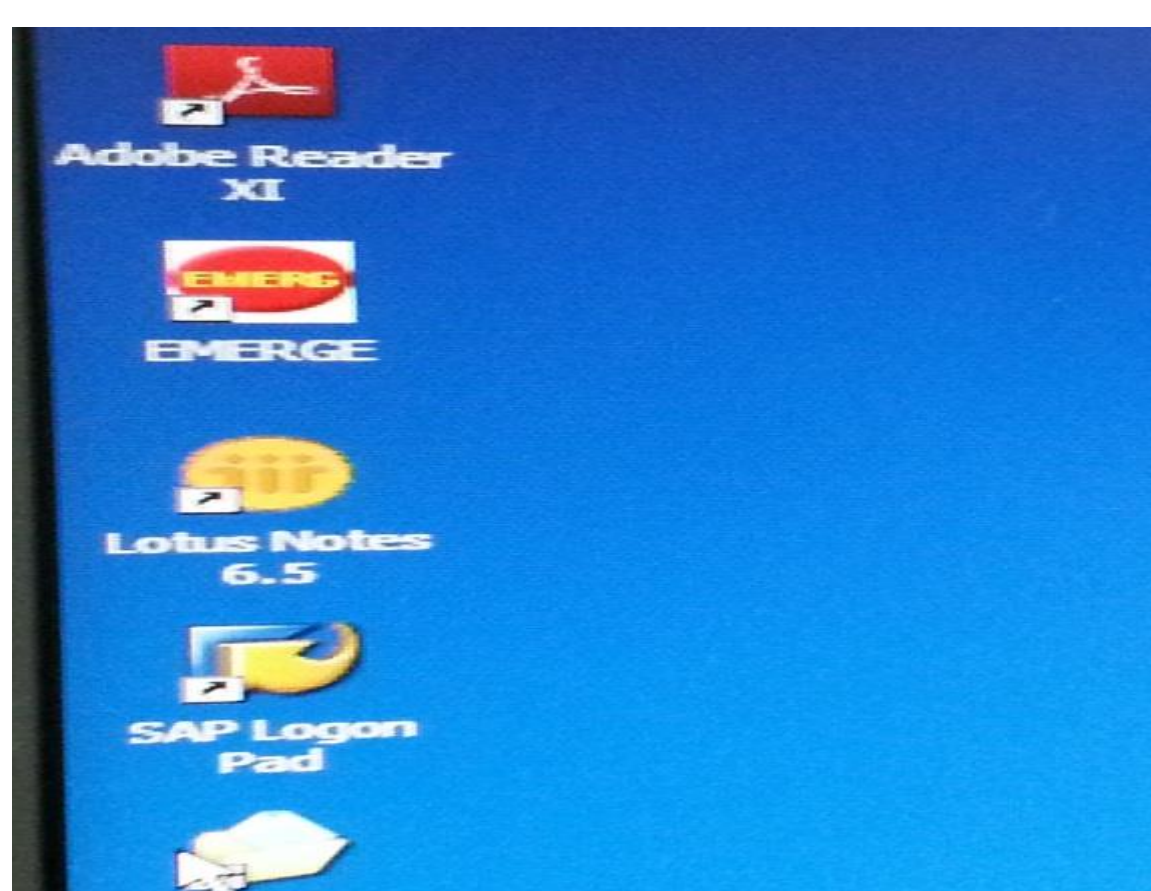


Figure 3

Simple Solutions

Problem 1: The containers for the broncho-dilator drugs were always misplaced.
Solution 1: A simple label instructing the staff to return the container was implemented.

Problem 2: Availability of the Bronchodilator Therapy forms
Solution 2a: These forms are made available on the desktop of every computer



Solution 2b: Bronchodilator Therapy forms placed in designated areas for easy access



Problem 3: No specific location for the containers for the broncho-dilator drugs.

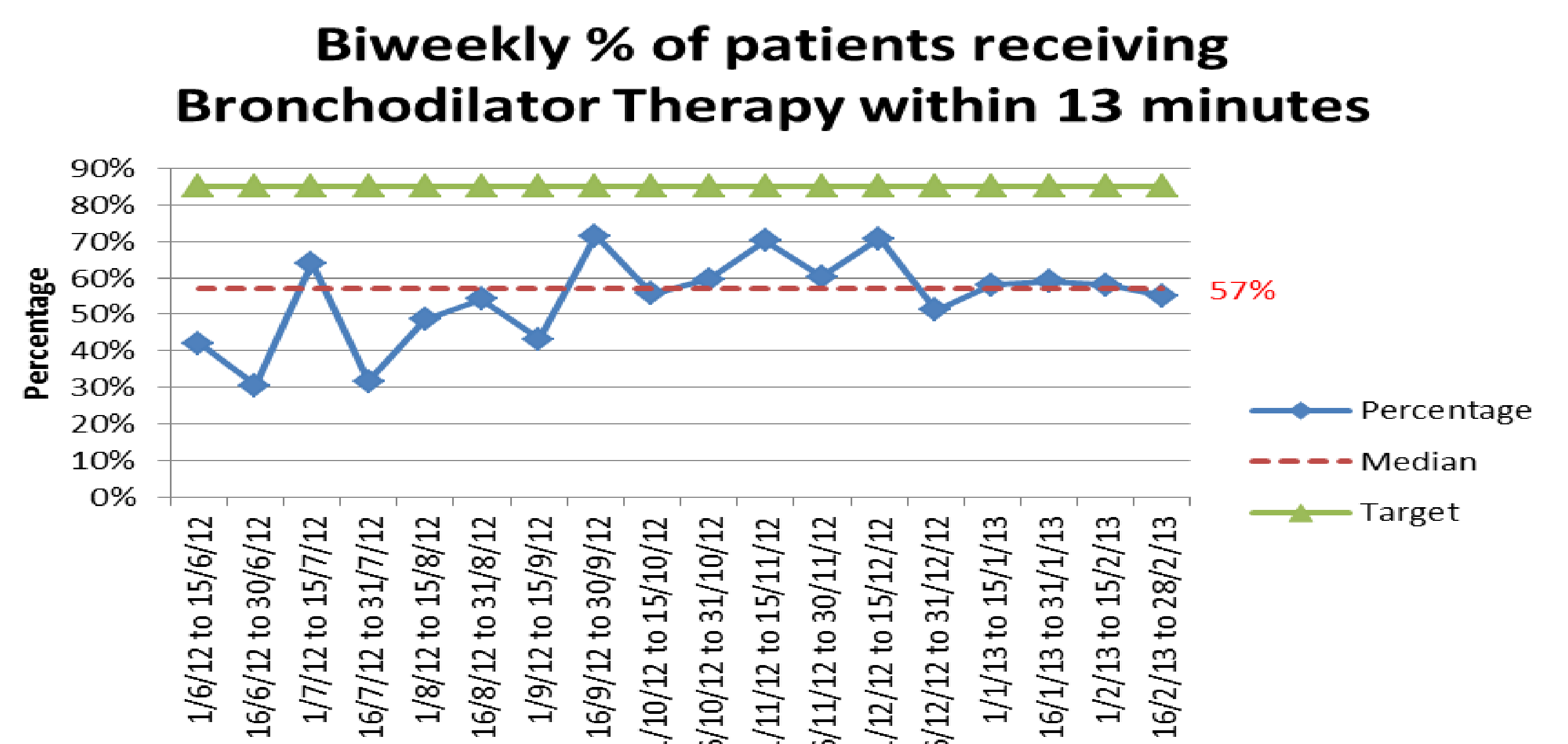


Project Achievement

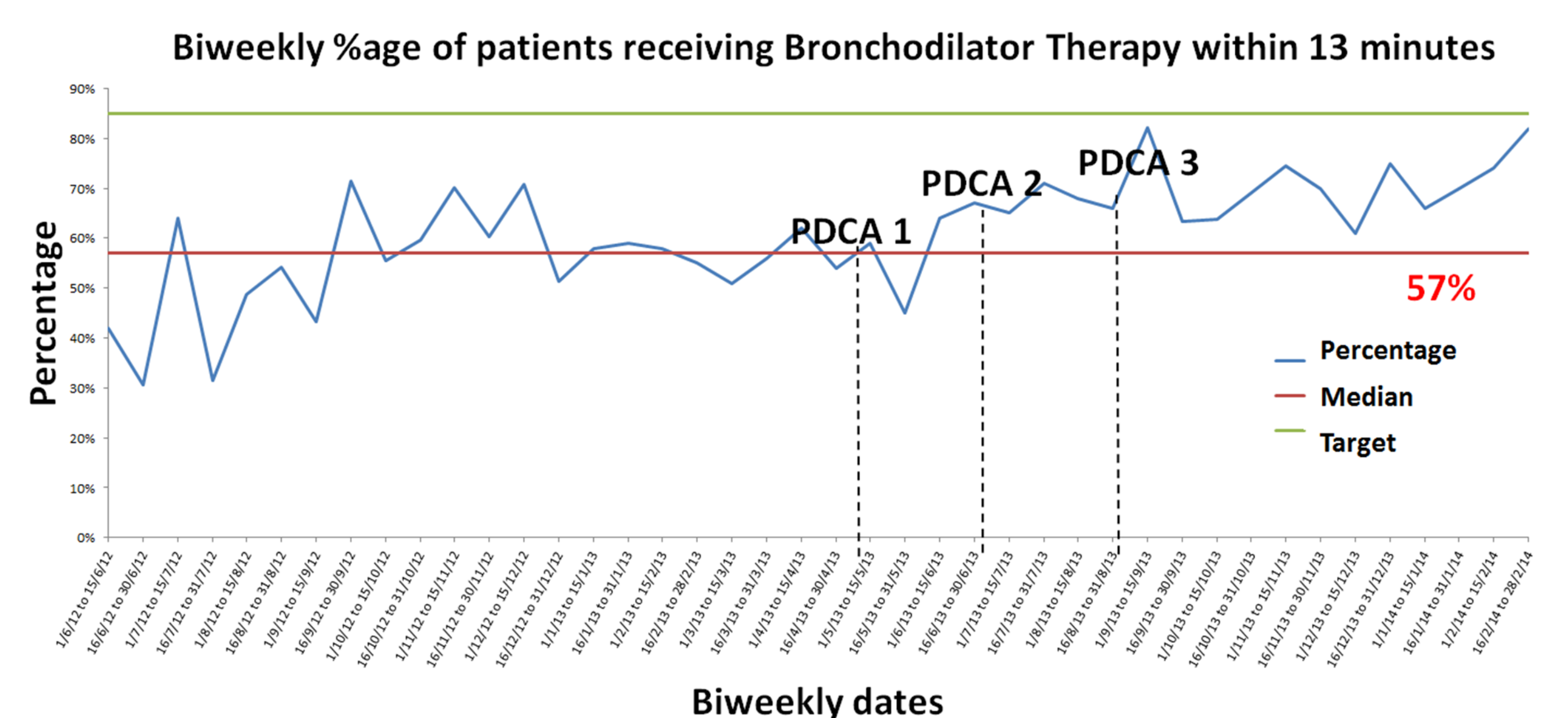
As a result of the bronchodilator therapy protocol being initiated, patients receiving the bronchodilator drugs within 13 minutes were relieved of acute symptoms such as breathlessness and therefore did not require admission.

Other benefits : improved patient care , less need for admission, a reduction in healthcare costs (hospitalization costs of a patient admitted to Respiratory Medicine for a period of 5 days under B2 resident rate is S\$3952/- before Medisave deduction (a patient who is discharged just pays the emergency charges of S\$115/-), reduced stress where the staff is concerned and the implementation of evidence based practice.

The Problem back THEN!



We FIXED it!!



... and in Conclusion

Initiating the early administration of bronchodilator therapy, to patients with asthma and COPD supports Singapore General Hospital's quality commitment of "Best Outcome, Best Experience" for patients and their families . This complies with the Joint Commission International's Standard of Access to Care and Continuity of Care (ACC 1.1.1) which states that patients with emergency or immediate needs are given priority for assessment and treatment