



Improving Efficiency and Staff Satisfaction in the Operating Room Through a Revised Block Scheduling Framework at a Rural Community Hospital

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ECU Health Quality Improvement Symposium

January 31, 2024

Background/Introduction



Considerations for Community Hospital Improvement

- Small Shifts in Operating Room Demand = Large Impact on Efficiency and Workload
- Workload Efficiencies and Pressure for Improvement Has Limits

Aim Statement:

To improve ECU Health Beaufort OR block utilization above 75% and decrease after-hours cases by 10% while maintaining staff satisfaction by implementing a four-day- 10-hour operating schedule.

ECU Health Beaufort: A Campus of ECU Health Medical Center

- Five Operating Suites
- 3100 OR Cases Per Year
- Orthopedics, General Surgery, Ophthalmology, Urology, Ob/Gyn
- RN, MD, CRNA, RNFA, Surgical Tech, ORA, Housekeeping, Central Sterile

Methods



Pre-Implementation:

Survey of staff satisfaction and perceptions of anticipated change.

OR time data extracted and analyzed from EPIC



Improvement Implementation:

Block Scheduling Transition Began January 2023

Staffing Schedule Modified to Accommodate New Block Times

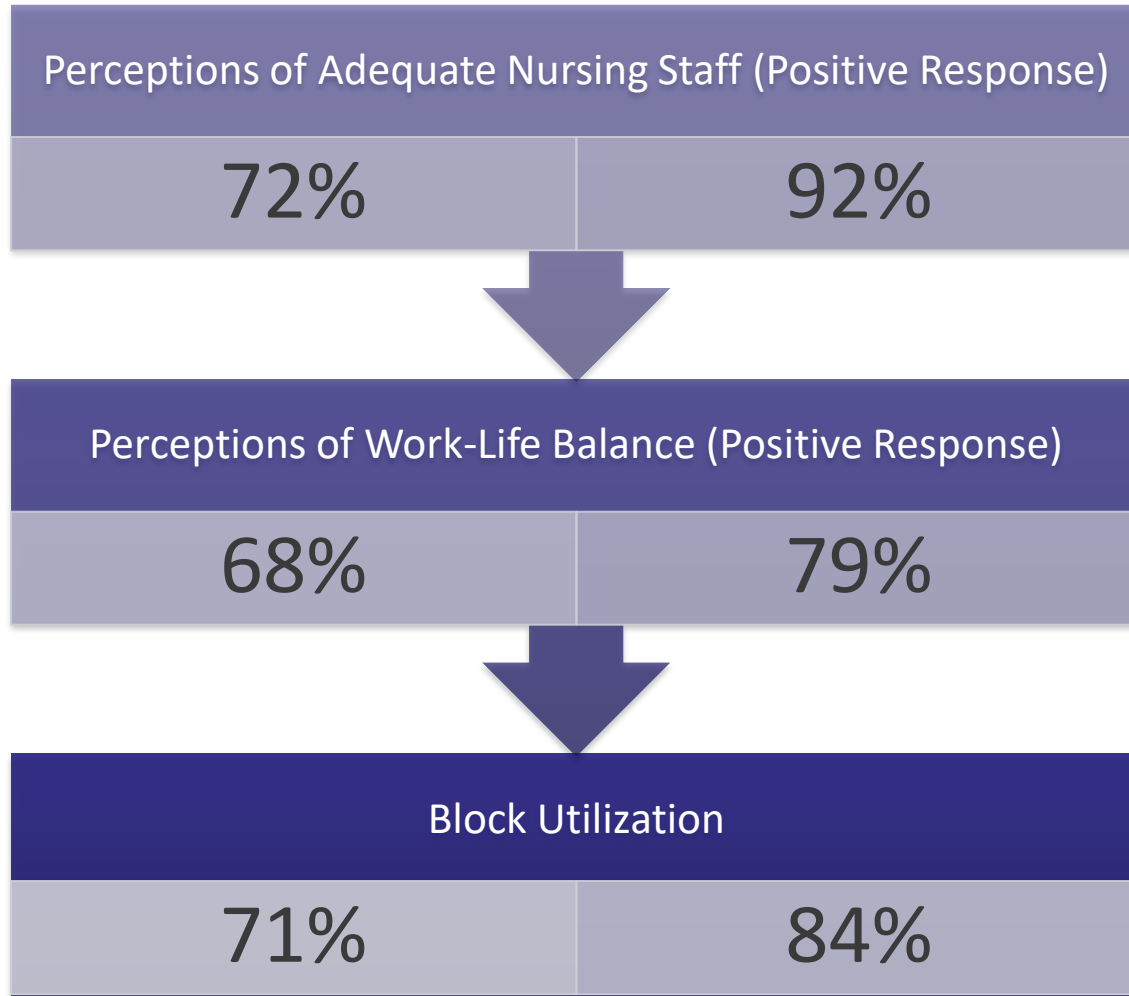


Post Implementation:

Post-Survey of staff

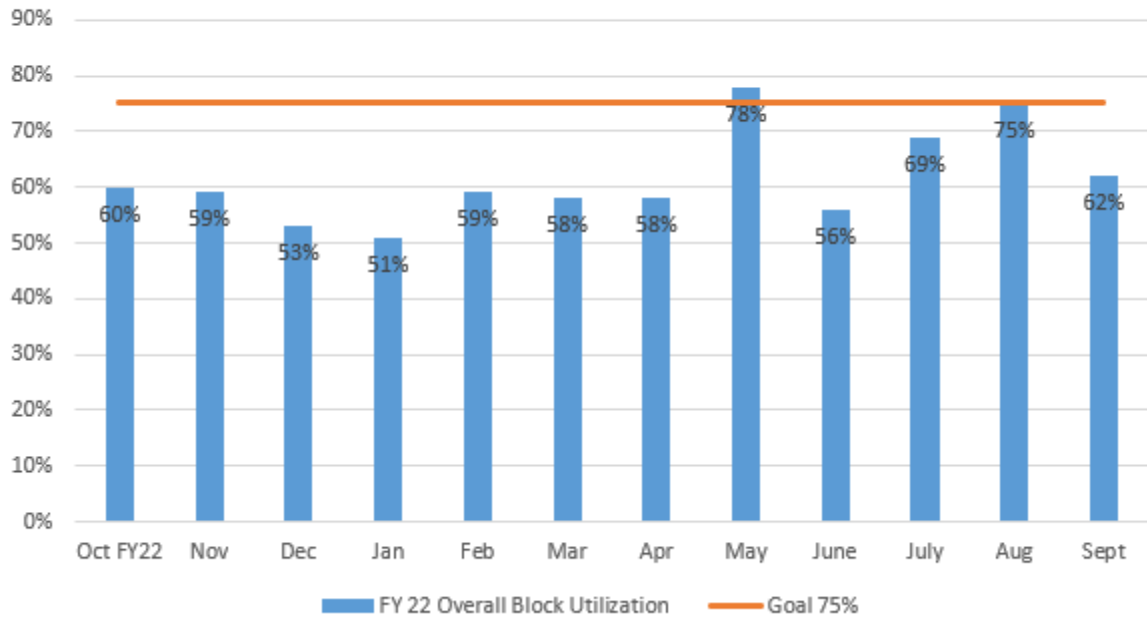
Extract and analyze pre and post OR time data

Results

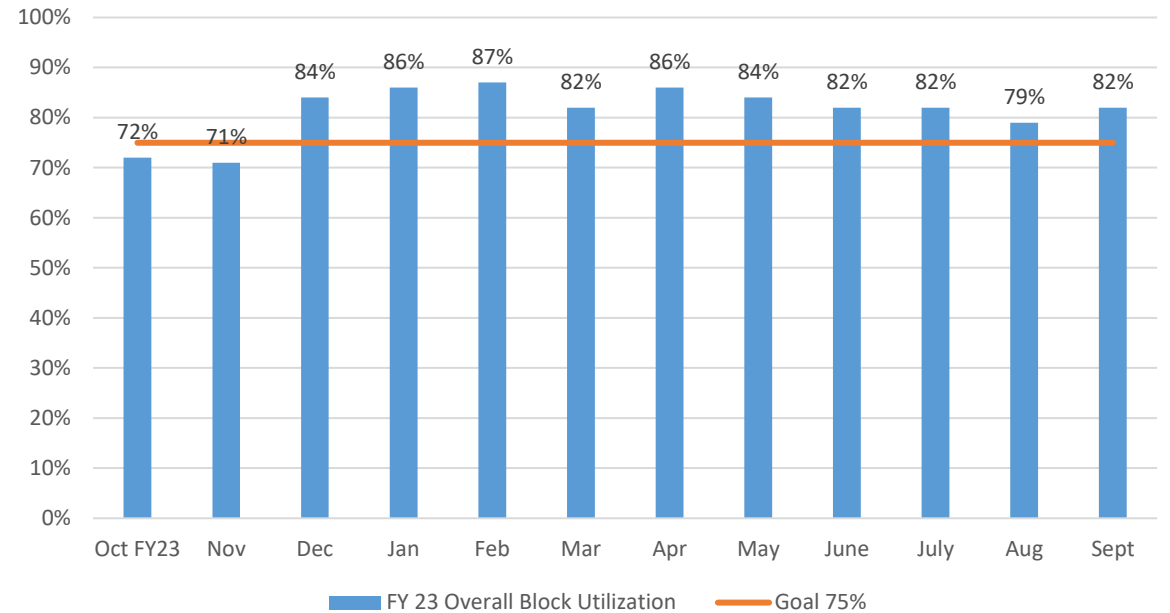


Results

Overall Block Utilization FY22



Overall Block Utilization FY23



Conclusion



EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS MUST CONSIDER THE PEOPLE INVOLVED



SOLUTIONS MUST LOOK BEYOND "WORK HARDER" OR "WORK FASTER"



CREATING CAPACITY FOR NEW OR EXPANDED SERVICES



DECREASED USE OF OVERTIME AND CALL TEAMS



IMPROVING WORK-LIFE BALANCE



DECREASED LABOR COSTS

