

## PROJECT AIM

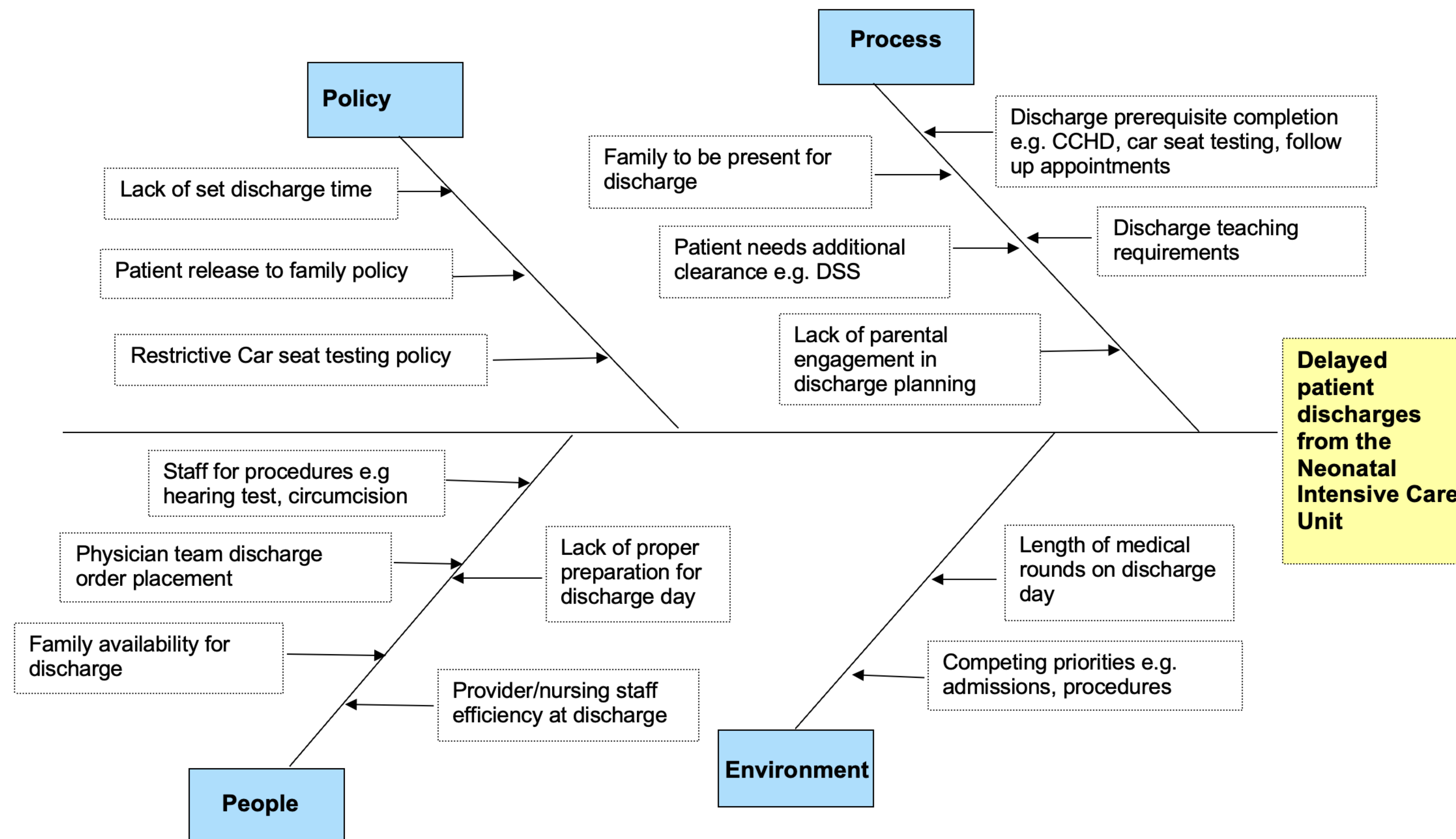
The goal of this project is to improve NICU discharge timing to increase patient throughput. Over the course of 9 months, we aim to have 60% of our discharges occurring by 2 PM on discharge day. Accomplishing this will lead to timely discharge for families and increased bed availability for incoming patients.

## METHODS

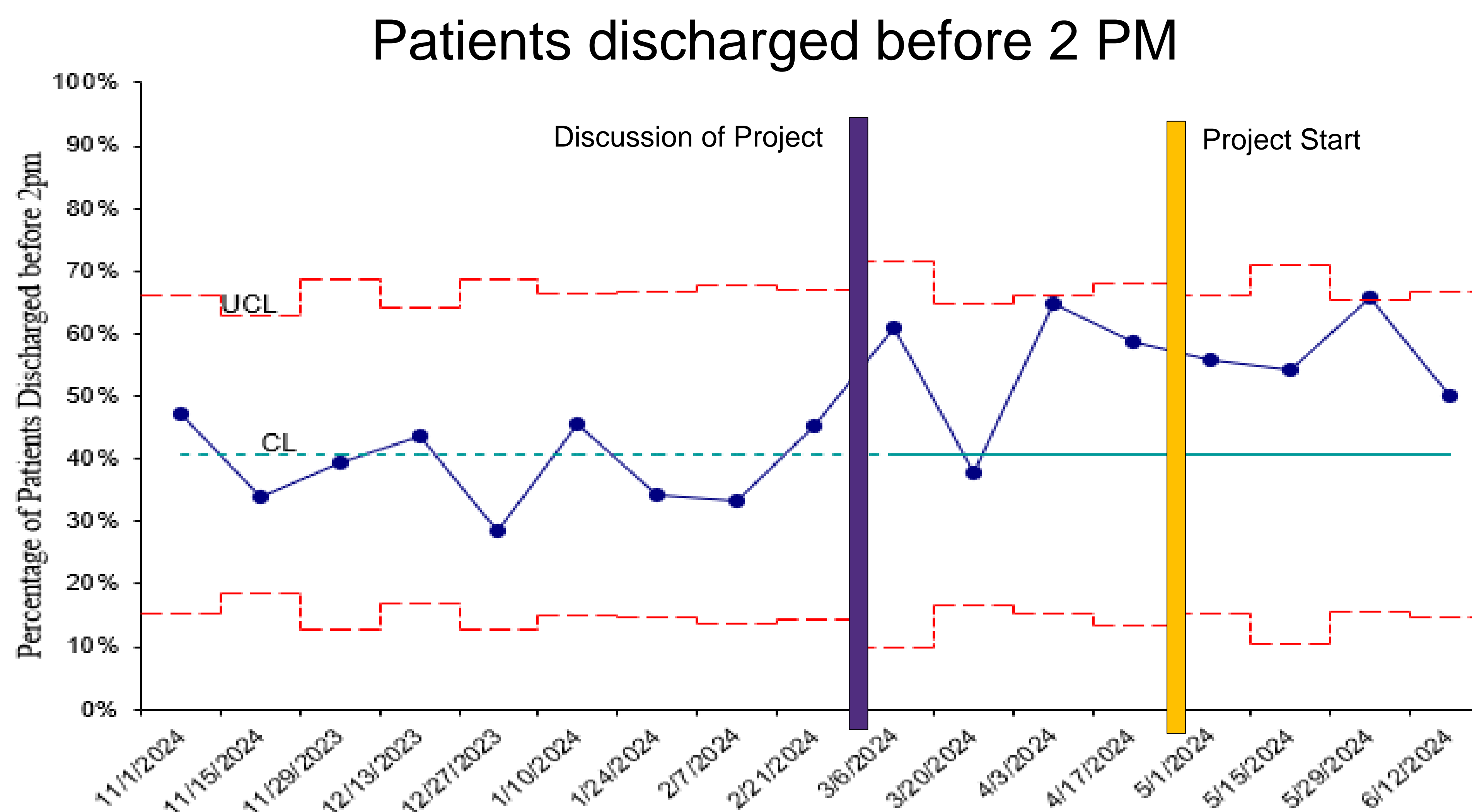
Our project is targeting the following three processes through a series of PDSA cycles:

1. **Goal time for discharge**
  - a. Request family arrive by 9 AM on day of discharge
  - b. Target 12 PM as goal time
2. **Car seat testing policy**
  - a. Revise policy to allow for car seat testing to occur at any time if other pre-requisites are met
  - b. Previous policy required testing within 24 hours of discharge
3. **Discharge checklist & algorithm**
  - a. Streamline and standardize discharge process amongst team members

## CONTRIBUTING FACTORS



## PROGRESS



## DISCUSSION

- **Patients discharged by 2 PM**
  - Increased from baseline median of 40% in March 2024 to 50% in June with spikes between.
- **Discharge orders placed before 12 PM**
  - Increased from 55% in March 2024 to 75% in April but falling back to baseline in June.
- **Discharge occurring within 2 hours of order placement**
  - Remained steady between 40-55% throughout.

## NEXT STEPS

We are approximately 2-months into a 9-month timeline. We can achieve our end goal of 60% discharge by 2 PM but have difficulty maintaining it. We appear to be struggling when it comes to process measures related to timeliness of discharge orders, but these do not always correlate with improved discharge times. A discharge algorithm will be implemented in the next PDSA cycle to target these gaps.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the Brody Leaders in Innovative Care (LINC) Distinction Track, particularly Dr. Chang.

Thank you to the faculty, residents, staff, and patients of the ECU Health NICU and Department of Pediatrics.

Thank you to Dr. Akpan for this opportunity and continued guidance.