

IHI Forum 2026

How to Submit a Strong Poster Presentation

15 July 2026

Welcome and Agenda

- Brief review of general information
- Poster presentation versus a session presentation
- How to submit a poster
- Key elements of a strong poster
- Examples of strong posters
- Tips for presenting a poster
- Q&A



Key Information

Your one-stop-shop for all things
Forum:

<https://events.ihl.org/forum>

Poster submission deadline:
Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at
11:59 PM PT

[Forum Submission Page & Poster
Guidelines](#)



Let's say you don't want to attend the general conference and you **ONLY** want to access to the Forum Hall to present your poster...

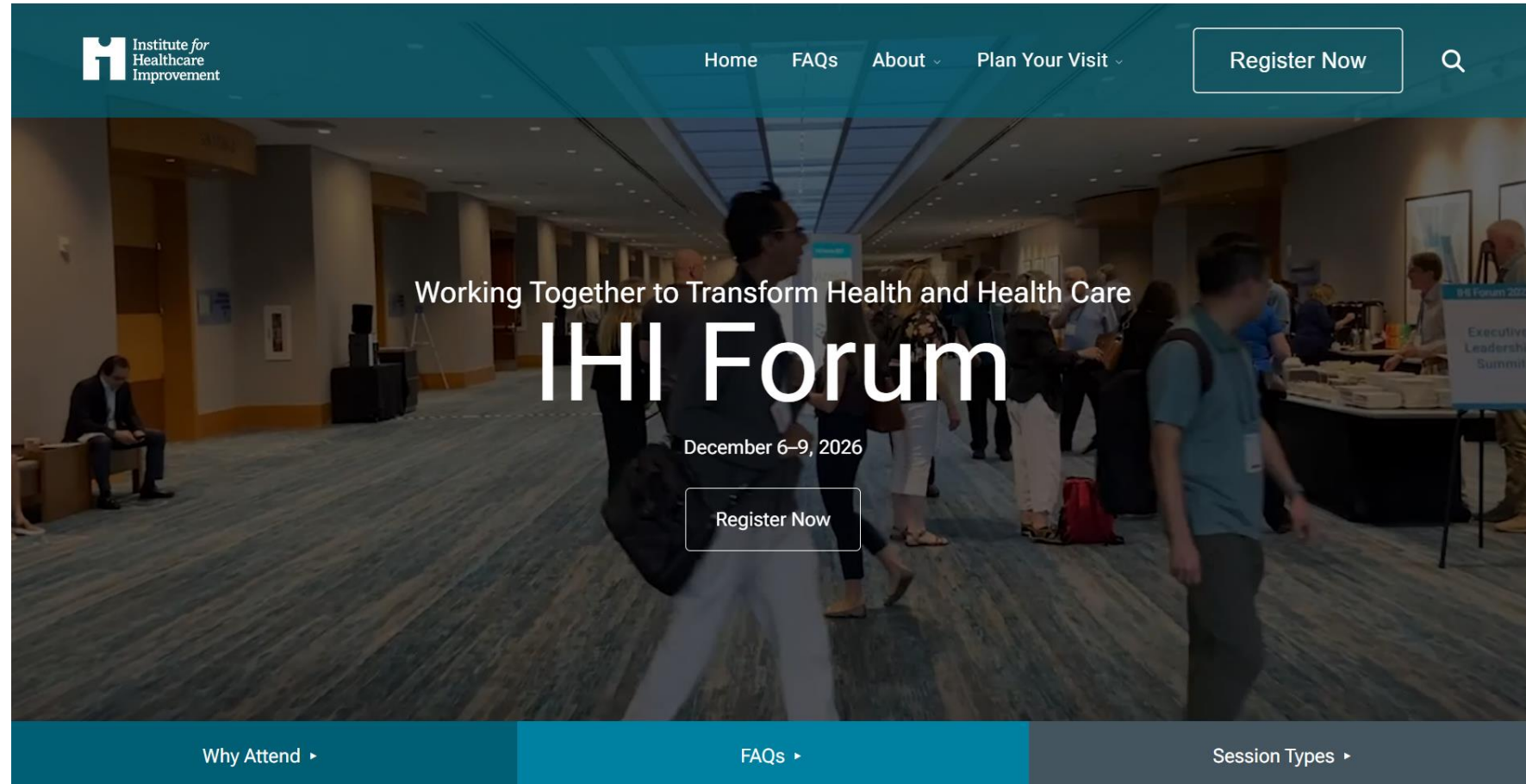
True or False: You must pay for the **ENTIRE** general conference even if you only want Forum Hall access.

FALSE

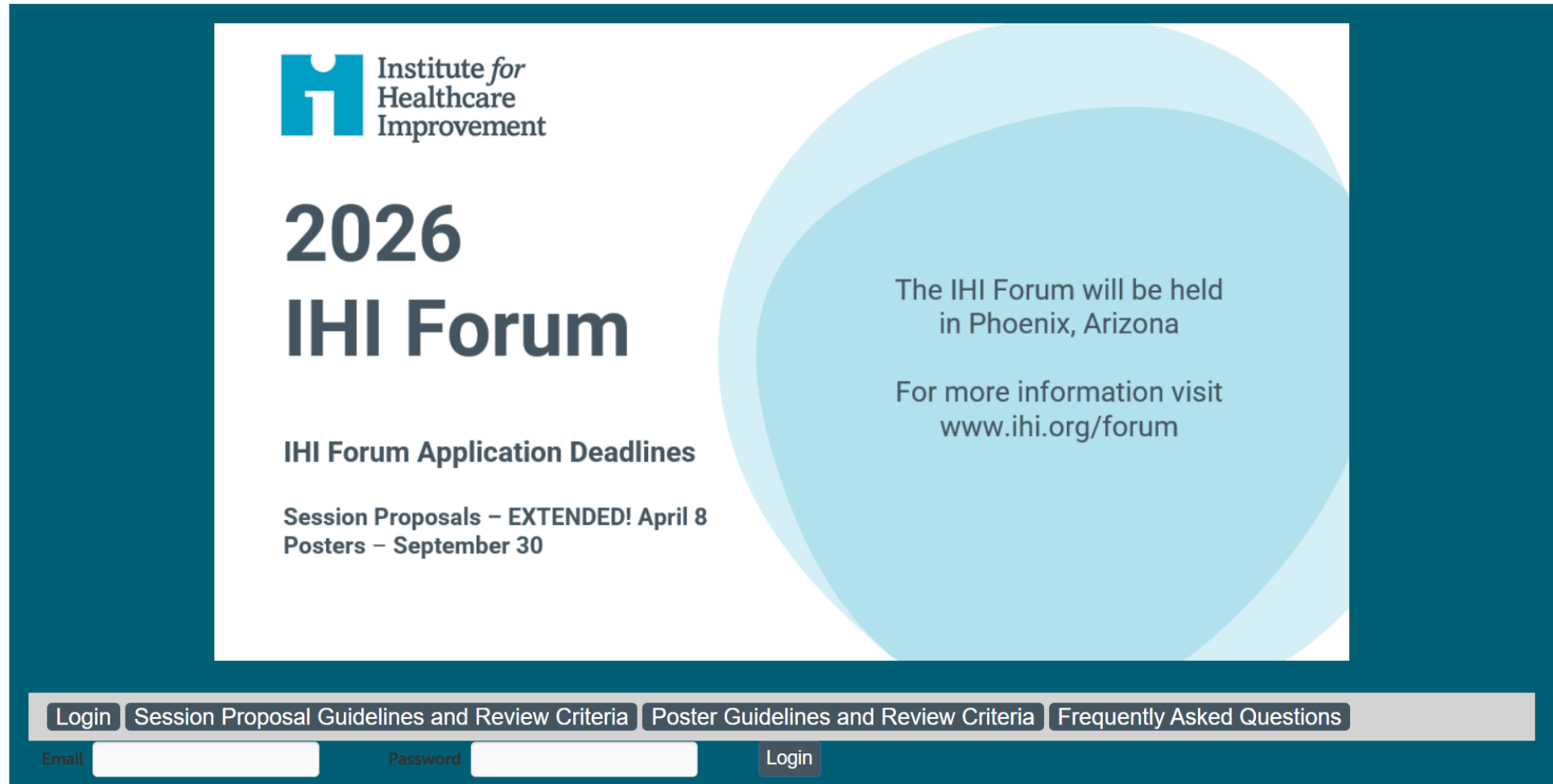
Forum Hall Only Fee: \$400



Forum Website



Submission Portal Website



The screenshot shows the IHI Forum Submission Portal Website. The header features the IHI logo and the text "Institute for Healthcare Improvement". The main content area is divided into two sections. The left section, titled "2026 IHI Forum", lists the application deadlines: "Session Proposals – EXTENDED! April 8" and "Posters – September 30". The right section, set against a light blue circular background, states "The IHI Forum will be held in Phoenix, Arizona" and "For more information visit www.ihi.org/forum". At the bottom, there is a navigation bar with links: "Login", "Session Proposal Guidelines and Review Criteria", "Poster Guidelines and Review Criteria", and "Frequently Asked Questions". Below the navigation bar is a login form with fields for "Email" and "Password", and a "Login" button.

Institute for Healthcare Improvement

2026 IHI Forum

IHI Forum Application Deadlines

Session Proposals – EXTENDED! April 8
Posters – September 30

The IHI Forum will be held in Phoenix, Arizona

For more information visit www.ihi.org/forum

[Login](#) [Session Proposal Guidelines and Review Criteria](#) [Poster Guidelines and Review Criteria](#) [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

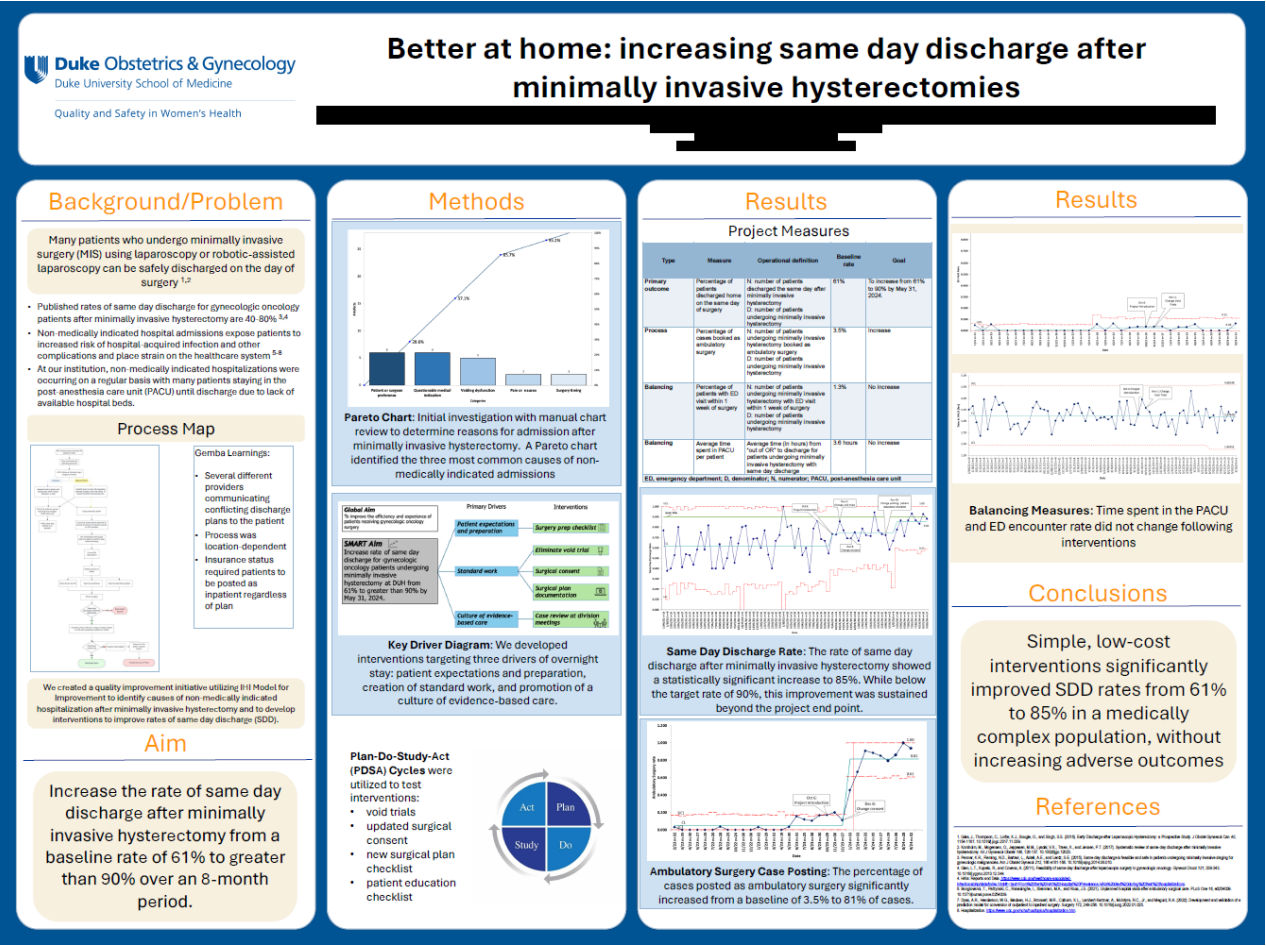
Email Password [Login](#)



**What is a poster
presentation?**



What is a Poster Presentation?



It's a visual representation of your scientific work (your improvement project)

Includes the main findings of your project.

Has a mix of narrative, tables, graphs, pictures, and other visuals.

Should be an invitation for a conversation with others at IHI Forum



How does a poster presentation differ from a session proposal?

Poster Presentation	Session Proposal
1:1 conversation	Group setting
5-7 minute presentations	15 min- 3hr session
Conversational	Didactic and/or pedagogical
All posters located in the Forum Hall	Each session proposal has their own assigned room.
Registration and in-person attendance is required for both.	



How is a quality improvement poster different from a research poster?

Research posters ask the “why” and “what” question to uncover new scientific knowledge

Research posters follow the IMRaD format

QI posters focus on “how can we do this better” to solve a specific, local problem

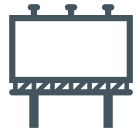
QI posters include the problem, aim, interventions (change ideas), and PDSA cycles



How to submit a poster on the Forum Submission Portal



Submission Portal Fields



Title (Limit: 100 characters)



Subject Matter Focus (9 Subject Matter Areas)



Poster PDF Upload

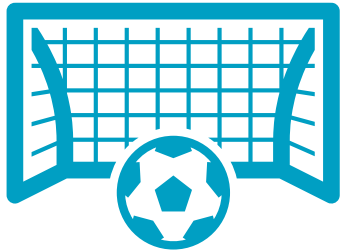


Poster Presenters

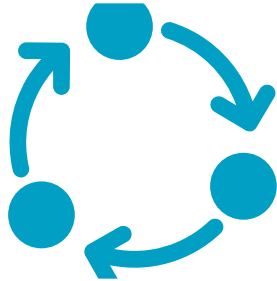
Key elements of a strong poster



Elements to Include in Your Poster



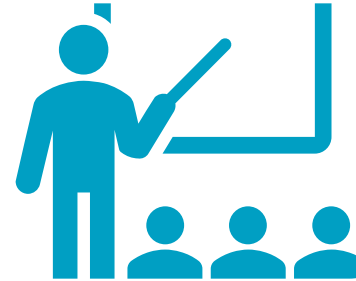
Aim Statement



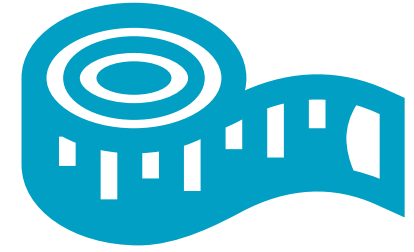
Change Explanation



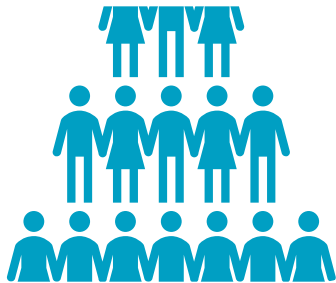
Graphical
Representation of
Improvement



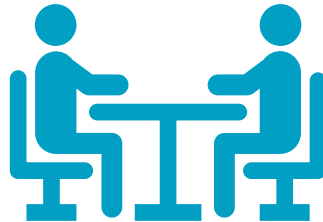
Lessons Learned



Multiple Measures



Multi-disciplinary
Team



Outline



Sustainability



Tested Changes

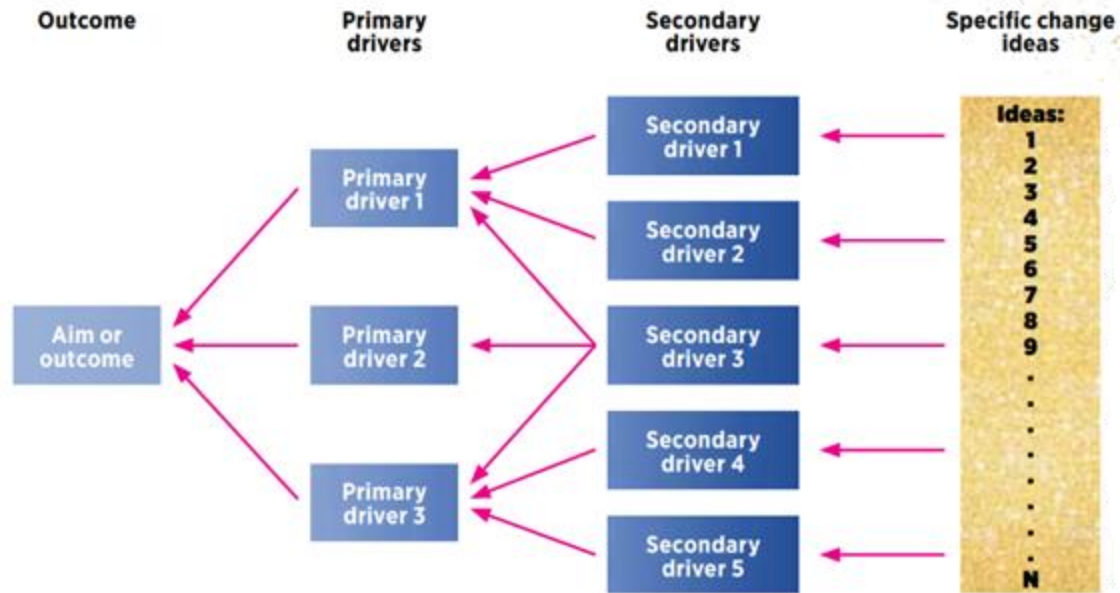
How can this aim be improved?

To reduce hospital acquired infections (HAI's).

To reduce hospital acquired infections (HAI's) by 25% in the
ICU by December 2025.

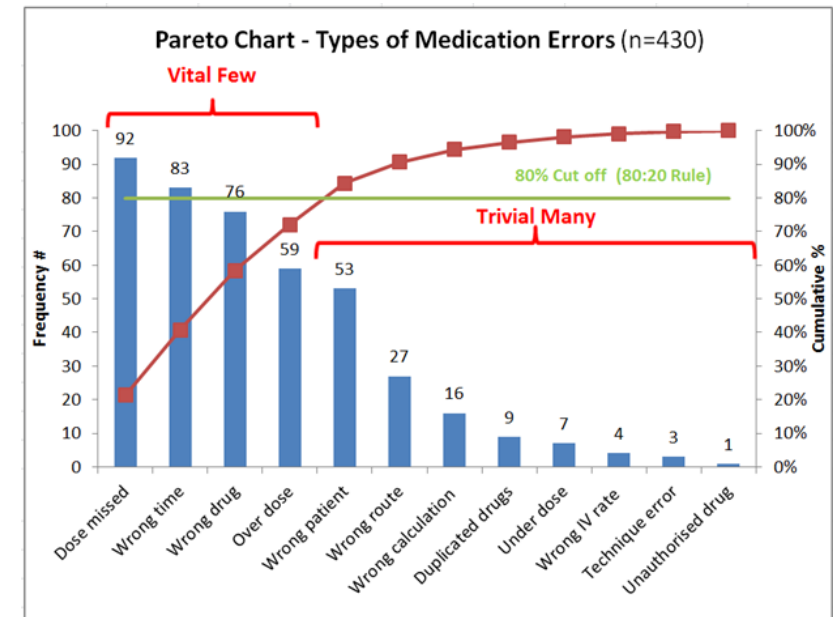
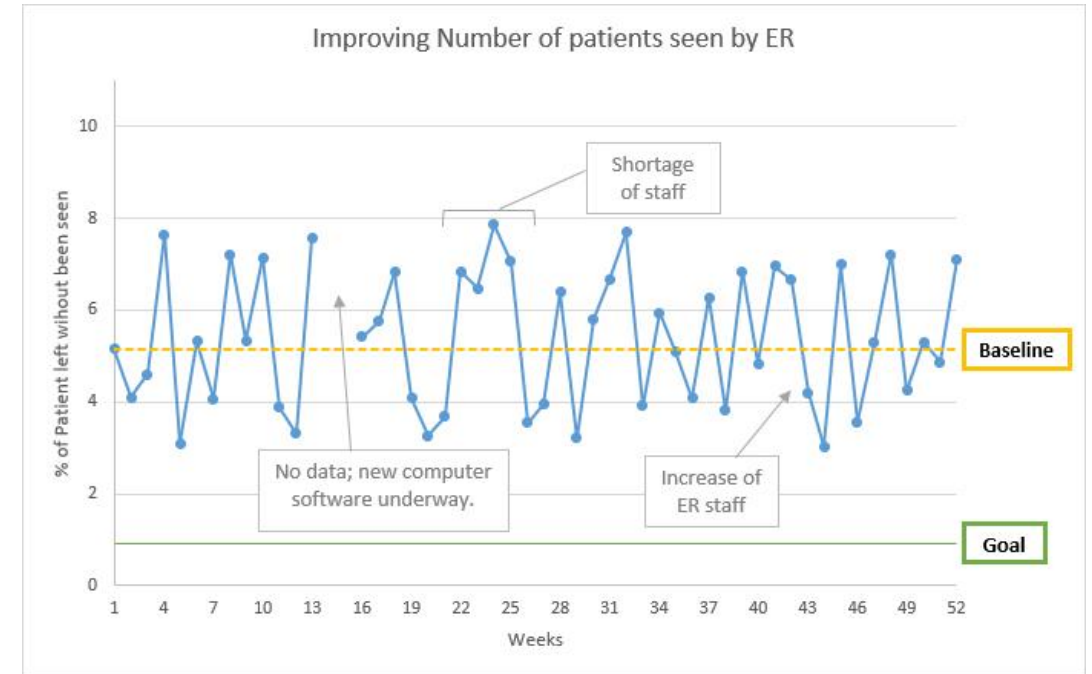


Tip: Include your change ideas within the poster

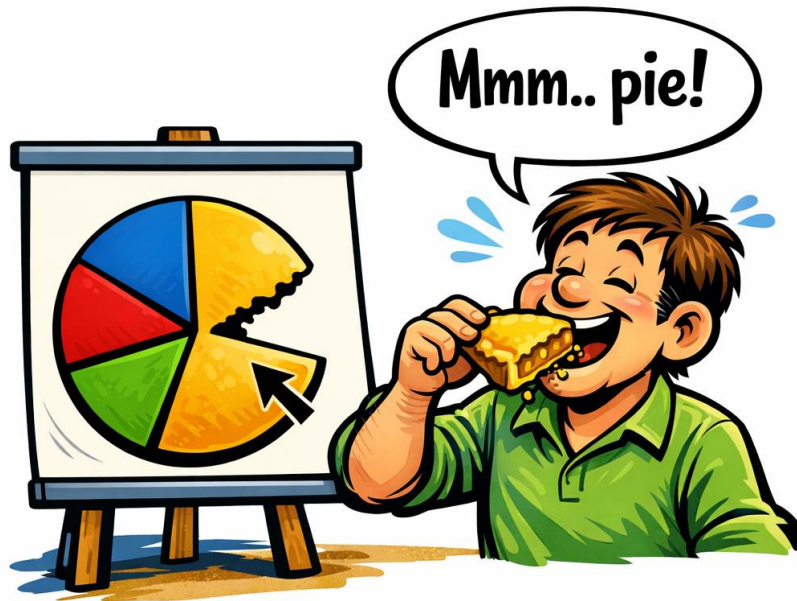


Quantitative Data

- Use the most appropriate visual to display your data
- Preference for run charts or Shewhart (control) charts
- Focus on major findings (do not try to include everything)
- Include a title with each figure

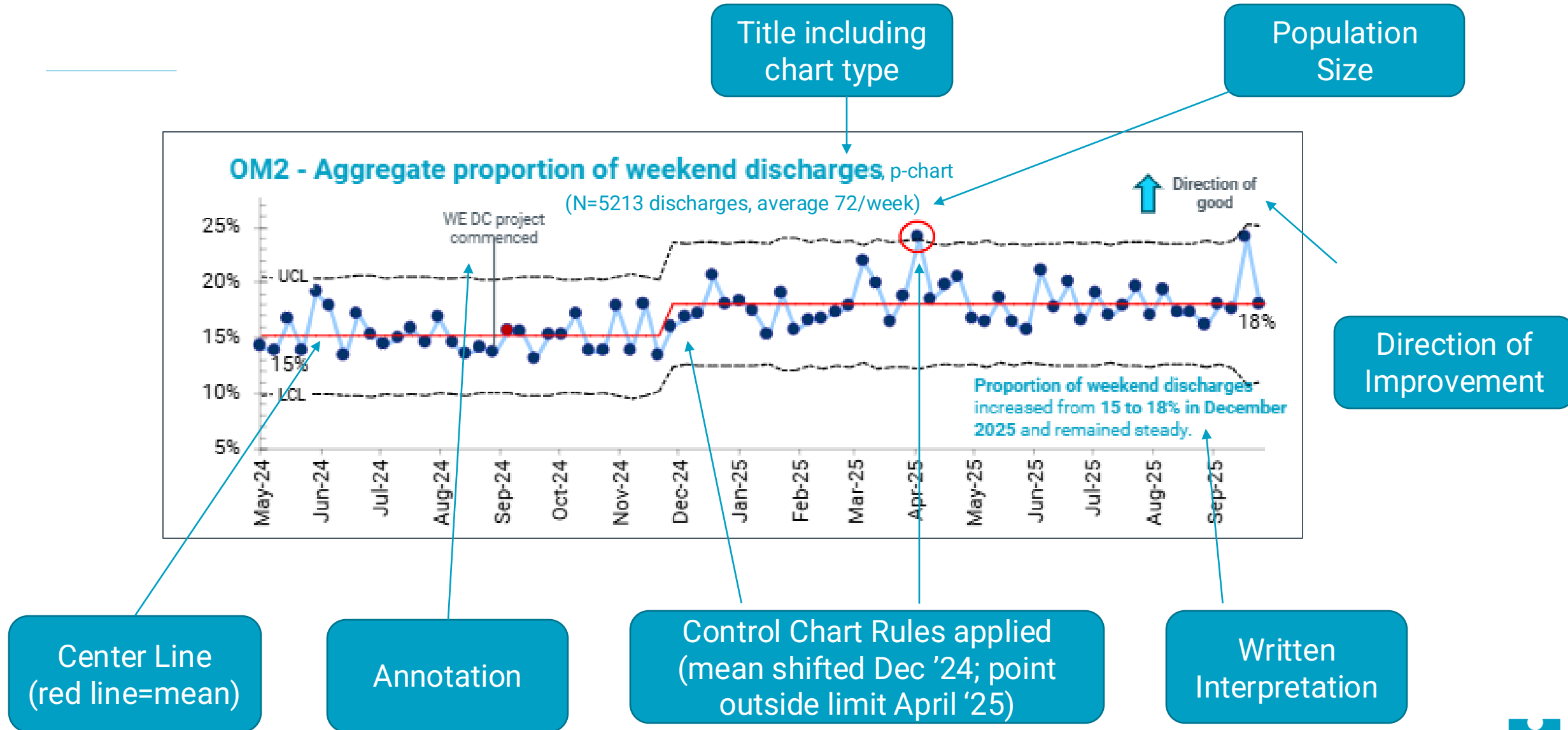


How to sweeten up your charts



- ✓ Include a clear title, for control charts – specify the chart type
- ✓ Note the population size (N)
- ✓ Label x axis, y axis, and center line
- ✓ Indicate the direction of improvement (up/down arrow)
- ✓ Add annotations
- ✓ Apply run/control chart rules
- ✓ Write out your interpretation

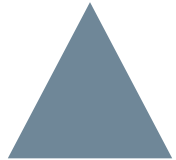
Chart Elements



Let's Practice – Chatterfall



WW - What works well about this chart?



EB - What could be even better?

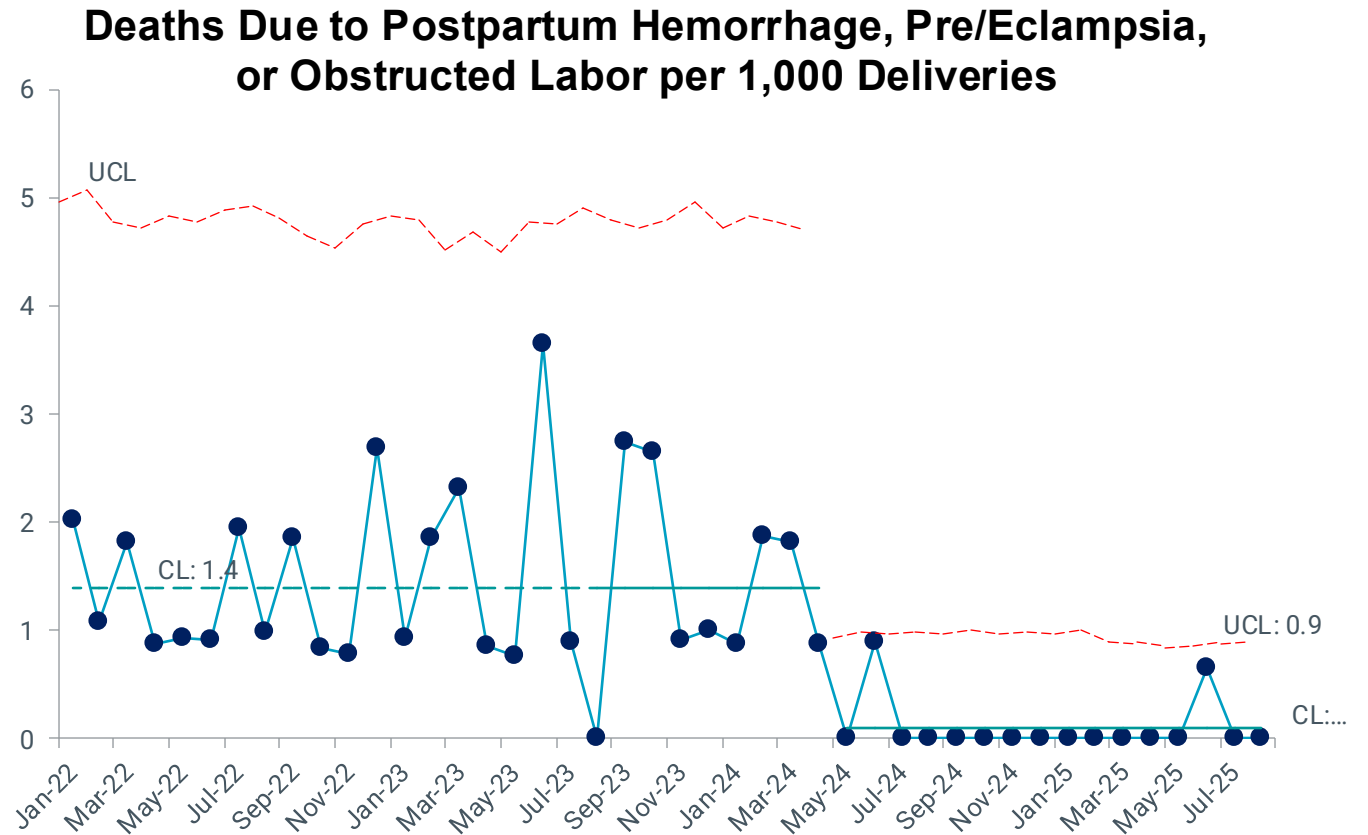
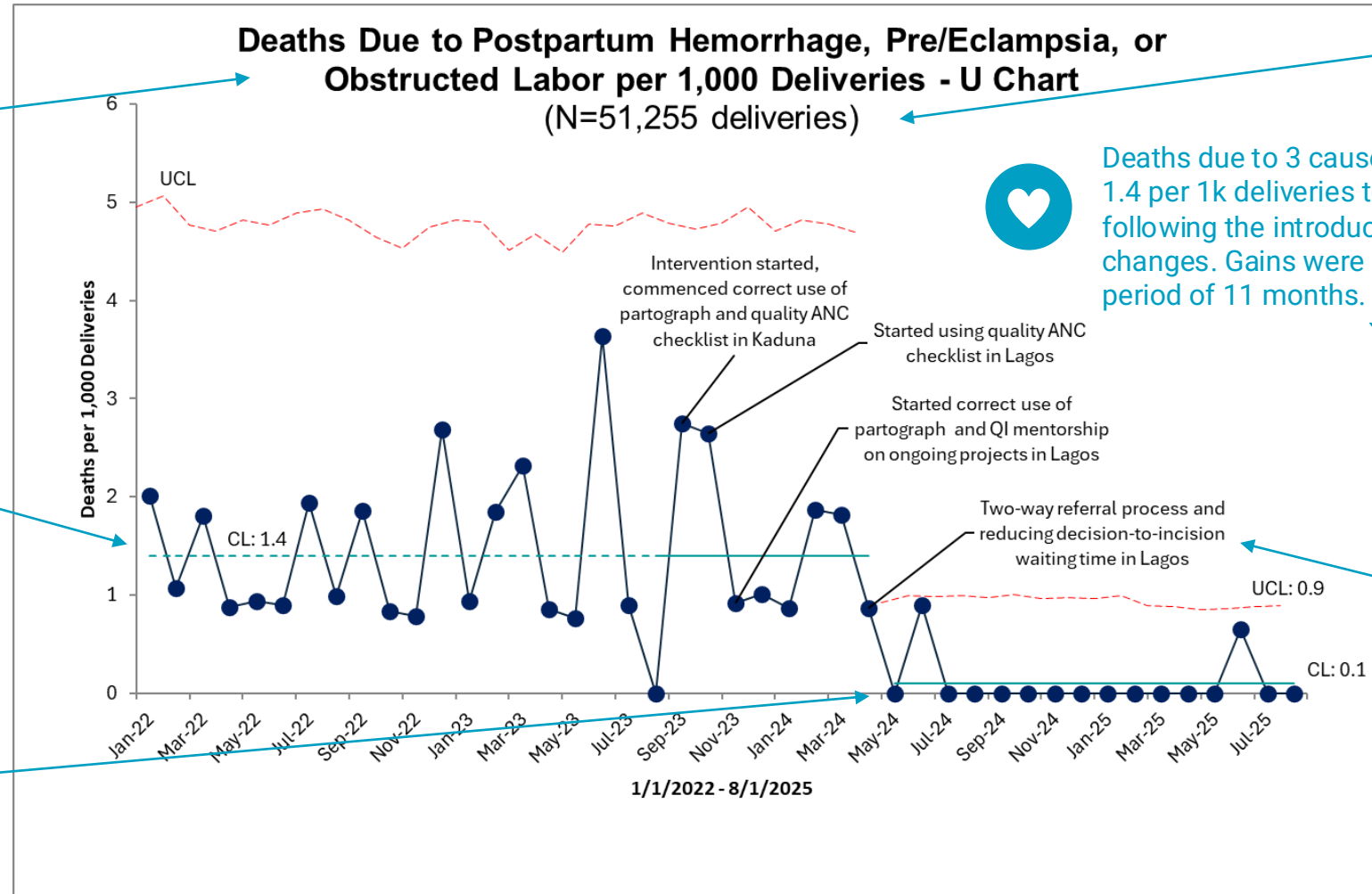


Chart Elements

Title including
chart type

Center line
(blue line=mean)

Control chart
rules applied
(mean shifted
May '24)



Population
size

Deaths due to 3 causes decreased from mean of 1.4 per 1k deliveries to 0.1 after May '24, following the introduction of key process changes. Gains were held with 0 deaths over a period of 11 months.

Written
interpretation

Annotations

Qualitative Data

- Add information about sampling methods
- Can highlight themes with icons and/or diagrams
- Keep quotes short and simple to reduce text

Toward Patient-Centered Hospital Design: What Can Airports Teach Us?

Elements of Airport Process Design that Could be Adopted by Hospitals

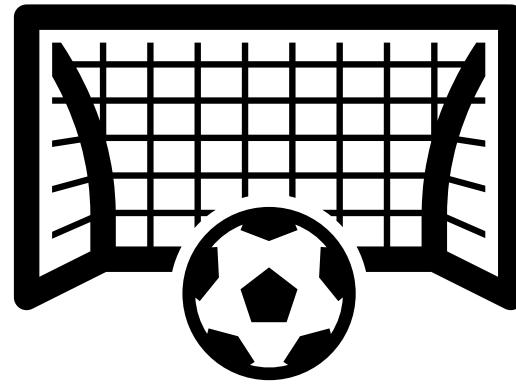
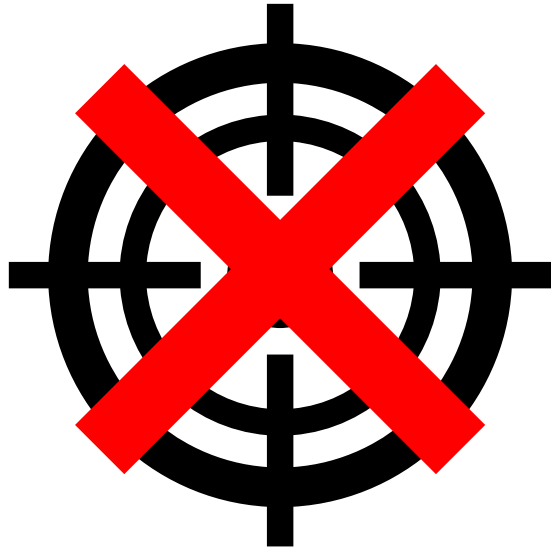


Mullangi et al. *Ann Intern Med.*
May 2017

Annals of Internal Medicine®



A note on icon usage



Implications for Your Work

Why do you want to share your work?

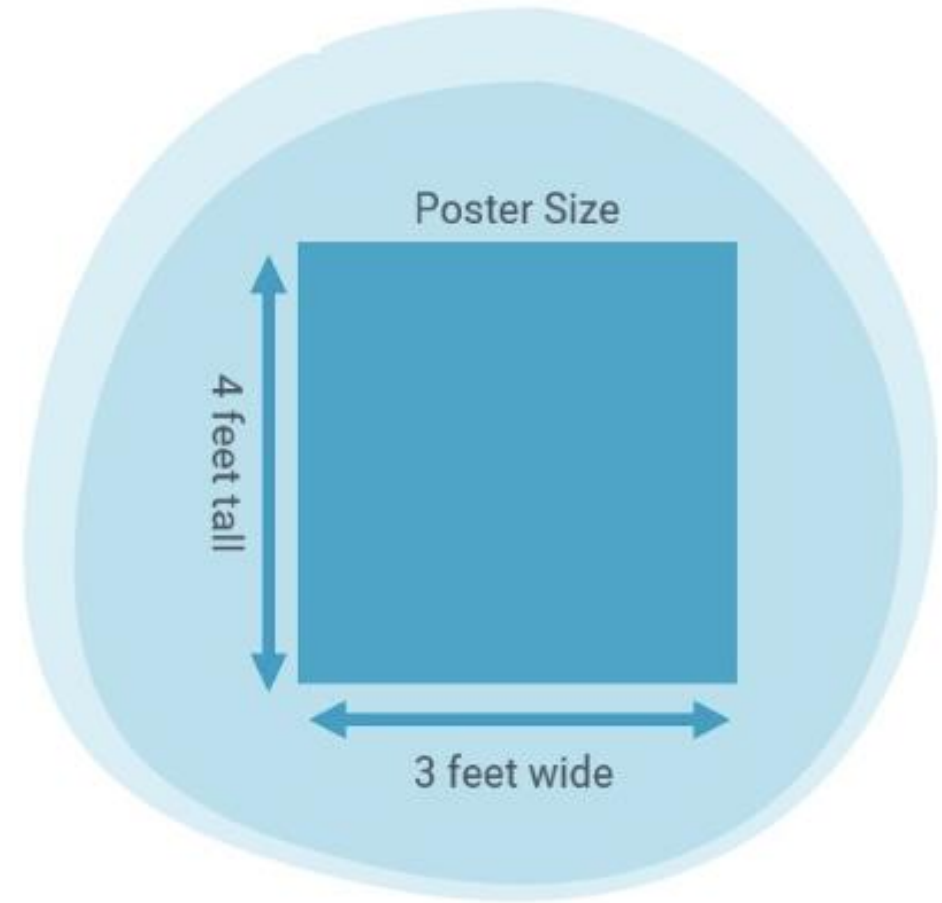
What are your key messages?

What do you want people to remember?

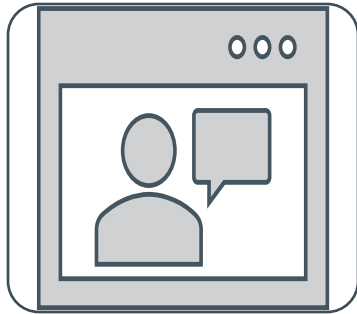
How does this work translate to future work in this area?

Poster Layout and Design

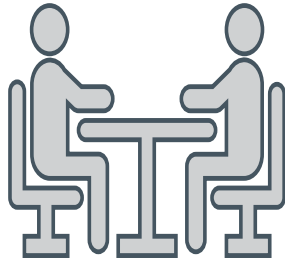
- Posters need to be no more than 3-foot-wide by 4-feet-tall.
- Ensure that the title is readable from 3-4 feet away.
- Include names of all co-authors and institutional affiliations.
- Keep background colors solid and muted. Avoid overly bright colors or graphics.



Additional Tips to Consider



Add a QR code to your poster that leads to additional materials or a short video about your work.



If you received funding for your work, make sure you include an acknowledgement section.



Provide contact information on the poster for follow-up questions.



Bring physical materials that you can hand out: business cards, smaller versions of your poster in an envelope pinned to the board, etc.

Pitfalls to Avoid

- Provide enough detail for reader comprehension, but focus on the most relevant information.
- Present adequate results to support your conclusions.
- Follow the directions and include all recommended sections.
- Avoid endorsing or selling products or promoting services.
- Tools, content, and technology referenced should be non-proprietary and accessible to all.
- IHI will not accept late submissions.



Examples of strong posters



Let's Practice!

REPROVE Project: Reducing Prolonged Ventilation After Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) at Montefiore Medical Center

Marjan Rahmanian, MD; Kristine Bourke, PA; Aman Shaikh, MD; Kyle Foster, MD; Sebin Choi, BS; Anthony Carlese, DO; Stephen Forest, MD; Koren Jones, BSN MPH; Paul Beechner, MS; Ari Moskowitz MD, MPH; Fran Ganz-Lord, MD; Michelle Gong, MD, MPH

BACKGROUND

Prolonged mechanical ventilation (PMV) following coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery is associated with increased mortality, morbidity, length of stay, and healthcare costs.⁽¹⁾

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) defines PMV as cumulative endotracheal intubation lasting >24 hours. The national benchmark rate for PMV is 5.15%⁽²⁾ whereas the rate at Montefiore Medical Center was 8.29% between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2023, underscoring the need for a focused quality improvement initiative.

OBJECTIVES

Reduce prolonged mechanical ventilation after CABG surgery at Montefiore from 8.29% to <5.15% by March 2025.

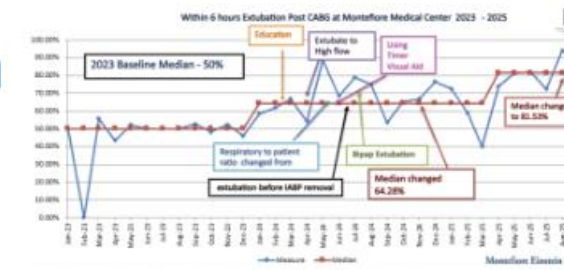
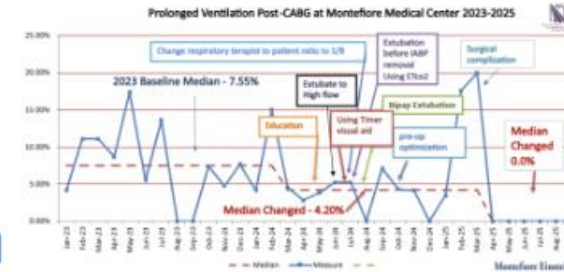
METHODS

Gemba walks and staff surveys identified workflow gaps and inconsistent practices contributing to prolonged ventilation. In response, system- and bedside-level interventions were implemented to standardize care, enhance staff engagement, and reduce prolonged ventilation after cardiac surgery.

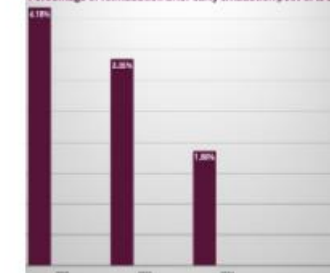
Key Driver Diagram



RESULTS



Percentage of reintubation after early extubation post CABG



INTERVENTIONS

The interventions targeted both system-level processes and bedside clinical practices and included the following:

- Staff Education:** Clarified STS PMV >24 h (vs 6 h) and reinforced timely weaning for nurses, physicians, and respiratory therapists.
- Visual Aids:** Timers and 5-h huddles improved communication and extubation readiness.
- Respiratory Therapy Staffing:** Improved ratio (1:12 → 1:3) enhanced assessment, coordination, and weaning.
- ABG Reduction:** Used End Tidal Co₂ (ETCO₂) and tidal volume to guide readiness, cutting unnecessary ABGs.
- Extubation Protocols:** All patients extubated to high flow nasal cannula (HFNC); those with STOP-BANG>4 were extubated to BiPAP.
- Policy Change:** Permitted extubation before IABP removal when safe to reduce ventilation time.
- Pre-op Optimization:** Added anemia management, incentive spirometry, and STOP-BANG screening.

All interventions were tested through iterative Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles to ensure continuous improvement.

RESULTS

From January 2022 through the end of December 2023, 579 patients underwent isolated CABG, of whom 48 (8.29%) experiencing prolonged mechanical ventilation. Between January 2024 and September 2025, 479 patients underwent isolated CABG, with only 22 (4.59%) developing PMV ($p=0.016$). The median rate of PMV decreased from 7.55% to 0%. The median percentage of extubations within 6 hours increased from 50% to 81.53%.

These improvements were achieved without an increase in reintubation; the reintubation rate decreased from 4.18% in 2022 to 1.86% in 2024. (Balance measure)

CONCLUSION

Through a structured, multifaceted quality improvement initiative, we reduced the rate of prolonged mechanical ventilation after CABG surgery from 8.29% to below the national benchmark of 5.15%. This project demonstrates that while treating the patient is essential, how we deliver care is equally critical. Success depended on clinical expertise, clear communication, staff engagement, and adherence to evidence-based protocols. Sustained gains required both process optimization and a cultural shift toward shared accountability, interdisciplinary collaboration, and continuous learning. By aligning education, staffing, workflow, and policy under a unified vision, we achieved measurable outcome improvements and strengthened a lasting culture of excellence in postoperative critical care.

REFERENCES

- 1) Zivkovic V, Chandra J, Schutt R, et al. The effects of extubation of respiratory support and prolonged invasive ventilation on outcomes of cardiac surgical patients: a retrospective cohort study. J Cardiothorac Vasc Anesth. 2020;34(5):1229-1234.
- 2) STS outcome report ending with 6/30/2025



WW - What works well about this poster?



EB - What could be even better?



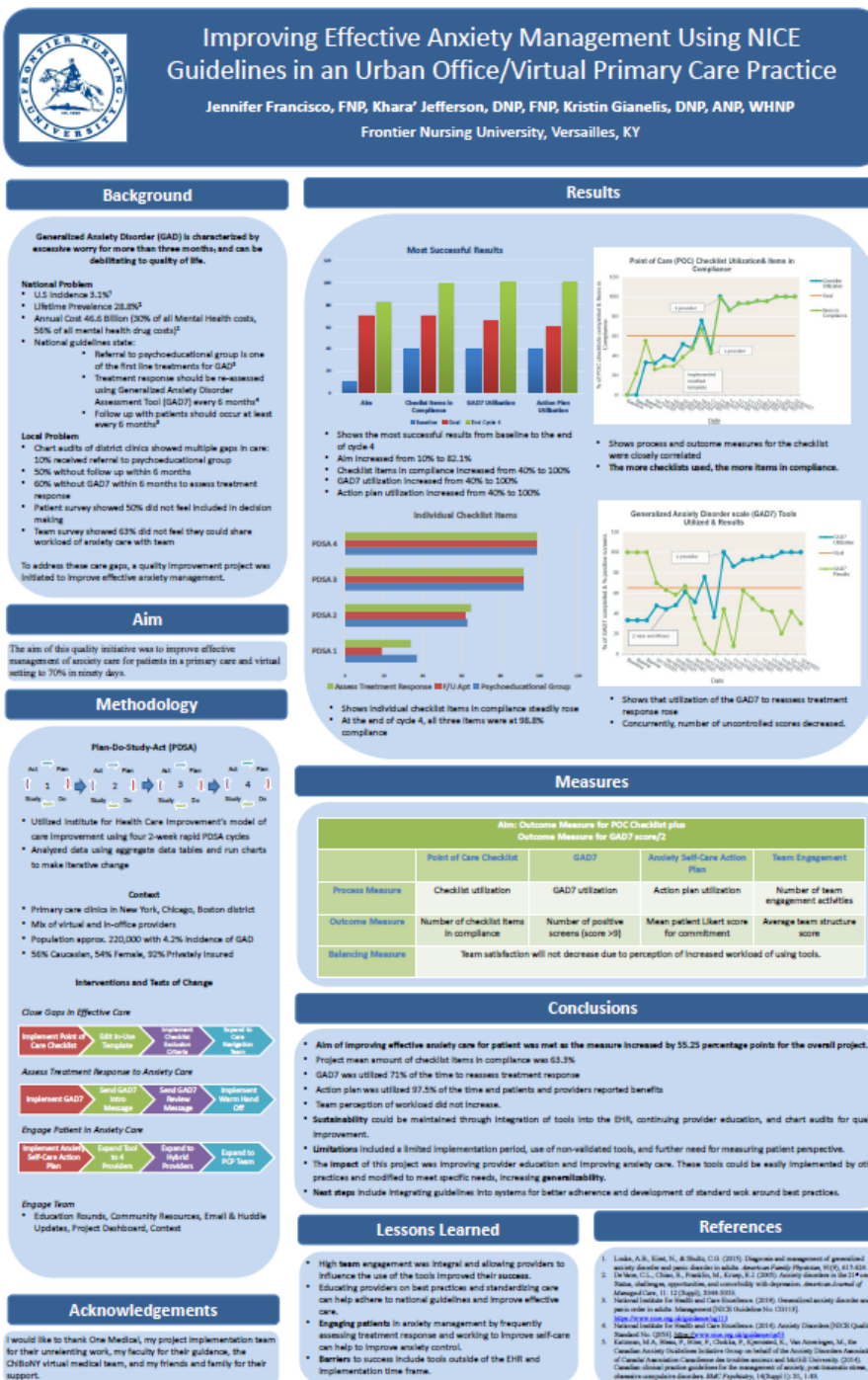
Let's Practice!



WW - What works
well about this
poster?



EB - What could
be even better?



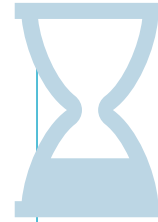
Tips for Presenting Your Poster



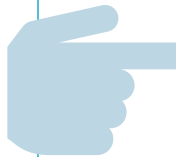
Presenting Your Poster



Try to stand next to your poster for the entirety of your assigned presentation time.



Aim to present for no more than 5 minutes



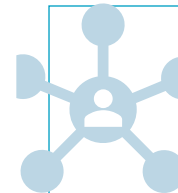
Point to relevant pieces of your poster as you are presenting



Practice your presentation beforehand



Be able to explain all aspects of your poster



Exchange contact info if possible & expand your network

Other Tips to Consider

Focus on the key messages

Highlight the key sections: aim, change ideas, and results

Demonstrate how you used Quality Improvement methodologies

Discuss what's next and the impact of your work

Anticipate questions that could be asked and how you would answer



IHI FORUM | FORUM HALL

New Opportunities for Poster Presenters

Five new ways to share your work, sharpen your message, and connect with peers in Forum Hall this year.



Institute for Healthcare Improvement

WHAT WE HEARD

Why Forum Hall is changing

We aim to booster the overall poster experience and provide more opportunities to improve and network.
This year's changes target three things:



More engagement

Create real reasons for attendees to stop, read, and talk with you — not just walk past.



Smoother setup

Poster setup times are being scheduled to avoid conflicts with ceremonies and other programming.



Faster check-in

A quicker, clearer check-in process — no long lines, no confusion about where to go.



Five new opportunities



01 1:1 Poster Feedback Coaching

One-on-one session with an IHI Improvement Advisor. Limited slots — sign up early.



02 Lightning Talks

Present your work out loud from the Forum Hall stage.



03 Poster Awards

Every poster is eligible.



04 Poster Bingo

A game that sends attendees to your poster. Nothing for you to do.



05 Poster Presenter Networking

Scheduled sessions to meet the other presenters in the hall.





1:1 Poster Feedback Coaching

Sit down one-on-one with an IHI Improvement Advisor for direct, personalized feedback on your poster.

How it works

- IHI Improvement Advisors serve as poster coaches during the Forum.
- Capacity is limited — sessions are first come, first served.
- Sign-ups open later this year via a separate form in the website agenda — not the submission portal.
- If slots remain, walk-ins will be accepted at the conference.
- Your coach is prepped on you and your poster before you meet.

WHY IT'S WORTH YOUR TIME

- Feedback from IHI advisors who do improvement work for a living.
- Actionable strategies to bring back to your organization
- Can help guide future improvement projects





Lightning Talks

Step away from the board and present your work out loud to a live audience in Forum Hall.

A way to take the mic

- Featured talks: top-rated posters are invited to give a longer talk in Forum Hall.
- Talks are staged in Forum Hall with a published schedule so attendees know when to show up.
- Will occur Monday-Wednesday
- Pay attention to scoring rubric on submission portal to ensure you hit the check the major boxes to receive a bigger score

WHY IT'S WORTH YOUR TIME

- An audience that came to listen, not just pass by.
- Exact speaking time is TBD, but we anticipate it could be 7-10 minute talks, enough to make people seek out your board.
- Speaking experience you can point to beyond the Forum.





Poster Awards

Recognition for standout posters — judged by reviewers and voted on by your peers in the hall.

How posters are recognized

- Every accepted poster is automatically eligible — no extra step.
- Track awards: the top-rated poster in each track, by review score.
- People's Choice: attendees vote via the conference mobile app or QR codes in Forum Hall.
- Voters can select up to three posters, so a strong board has real odds.
- Winners are celebrated in a small awards ceremony in Forum Hall.
- Ribbons are hung on winning posters for the rest of the Forum.

WHY IT'S WORTH YOUR TIME

- You're already in the running just by presenting.
- Recognition you can bring back to your team and organization.
- Potential eligibility to be published in the British Medical Journal





Poster Bingo

A little gamification that sends attendees to your poster — with no effort required on your part.

How it works

- Nothing is required of you — the game is run entirely by attendees.
- Attendees pick up a bingo card built around the posters in the hall.
- They fill squares by visiting posters and talking with presenters.
- Completed cards earn incentives
- The game runs in person, in the hall, during poster hours.

WHY IT'S BENEFICIAL TO YOUR TIME

- Attendees arrive with a reason to engage, not just browse.
- Drives foot traffic to every poster
- Provides you additional feedback on your work





Poster Presenter Networking

Scheduled time — offered several times across the Forum — for presenters to meet and trade ideas.

How it works

- Scheduled sessions during Forum Hall hours
- Forum Hall spans several days, so this runs multiple times.
- Each session gathers presenters who aren't scheduled to be presenting.
- IHI provides a discussion template so conversations start fast.
- The schedule and instructions are shared in advance.

WHY IT'S WORTH YOUR TIME

- Meet the people doing work closest to yours.
- A structured way in — no cold-start small talk required.
- Connections that outlast the conference.



Questions?



Tell us what you thought about our time together:



How to Submit a Strong 2026 IHI
Poster Presentation Evaluation



Thank You!

Reminder, ALL poster presentations are due via the Forum portal on **September 30th** by 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time

This presentation and recording will be available on the Forum website within 1 week of this call.

Questions? Email posters@ihi.org

