

# Improving On-Time Starts in Robotic Theatres: Nucleus Theatre 1 & 2

Team Initiative led by RWT Theatre Management Team & supported by all:  
Theatre Staff, ICCU Staff, Admissions Unit, Consultant Anaesthetists, Consultant  
Surgeons & QI Team



Quality Improvement  
Awards 2024

## Aim of the Project

To increase the rate of on-time starts in Nucleus Theatres 1 & 2 from a current average of 70% to 90%, with the first patient arriving in the anaesthetic room by 8:45 am, and to sustain this improvement for three months starting October 2023.

## Drivers for Change

### 1. Operational Efficiency

- Streamline theatre scheduling and coordination
- Reduce delays caused due to ward delays, patient or team not ready, waiting for ICU bed, lack of equipment prep and staff availability

### 2. Team Communication

- Improve communication among admissions lounge, theatres, ICU, surgical and anaesthetic teams
- Reinforce team briefing and huddles

### 3. Process Standardisation

- Develop standardised procedures for preoperative preparations
- Ensure consistent adherence to start times

### 4. Staff Training

- Provide training on new process and the importance of punctuality
- Encourage a culture of timeliness and accountability

## Plan and Do

### 1. Patient Arrival and Admission:

- ✓ Redesign the admission process with staff in Appleby, ensuring patients are ready and in the theatre recovery area by **8.30 am**

### 2. Consent and Checks:

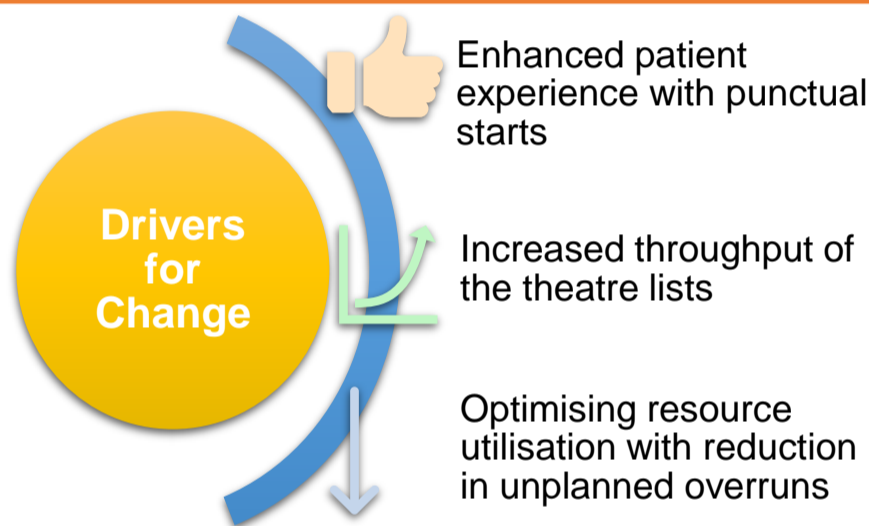
- ✓ Consultants to complete consent and Anaesthetic Assessments in the recovery area; theatre teams to ensure all the necessary checks completed

### 3. Equipment Prep:

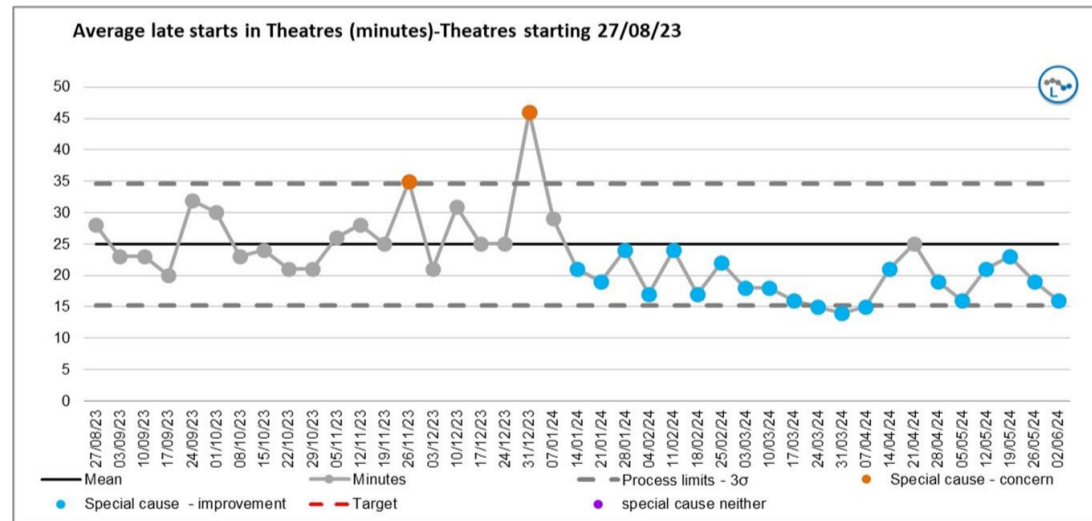
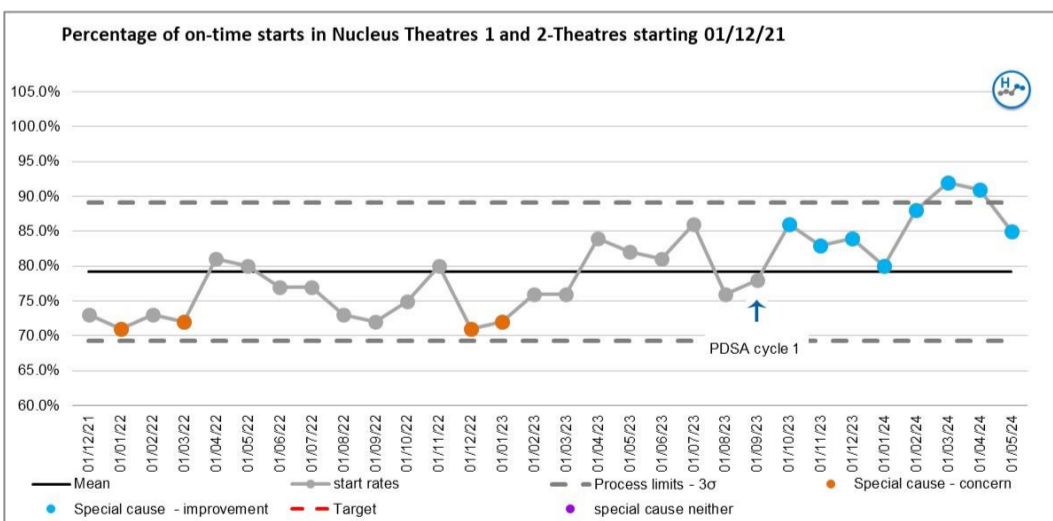
- ✓ All theatre equipment is prepared and checked the night before

### 4. Coordination with ICU:

- ✓ Theatre Coordinator to liaise with ICU Floor Leader at 7.30 am for bed availability and agree prompt start



## Study



## Summary of Outcomes

- Increased rate of on-time starts and sustained improvement
- Positive feedback from staff on improved workflow and reduced stress due to unplanned overruns
- Enhanced team collaboration and communication
- Notable reduction in the number of delays due to change in process, less equipment or staffing issues

## Lessons Learned

- Engaging all stakeholders early in the process is crucial for buy-in and successful implementation
- Regular communication and feedback loops helps to maintain momentum and address issues promptly
- Flexibility in adapting interventions based on real-time feedback ensures continuous improvement

## Anaesthesia, Perioperative, Pain Medicine & ICCU Directorate - RWT

### Next Steps

- Continue monitoring on-time starts and expand the project to include other theatres
- Share best practices and lessons learned with teams to foster a culture of continuous improvement

**Working in partnership**  
The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust  
Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust