

TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CARE BY: IMMEDIATE POSTOPERATIVE NURSING ASSESSMENT WITH IN 30 MINUTES AT IPD 3.

Munir A¹, Sabghatullah H², Khan N³, Shahid Masih⁴, Meerab⁵, Baqir S⁶
^{1,2,3,4,5}Nursing Department, Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Lahore
⁵Quality and Patient Safety Department, Shaukat Khanum

OBJECTIVE

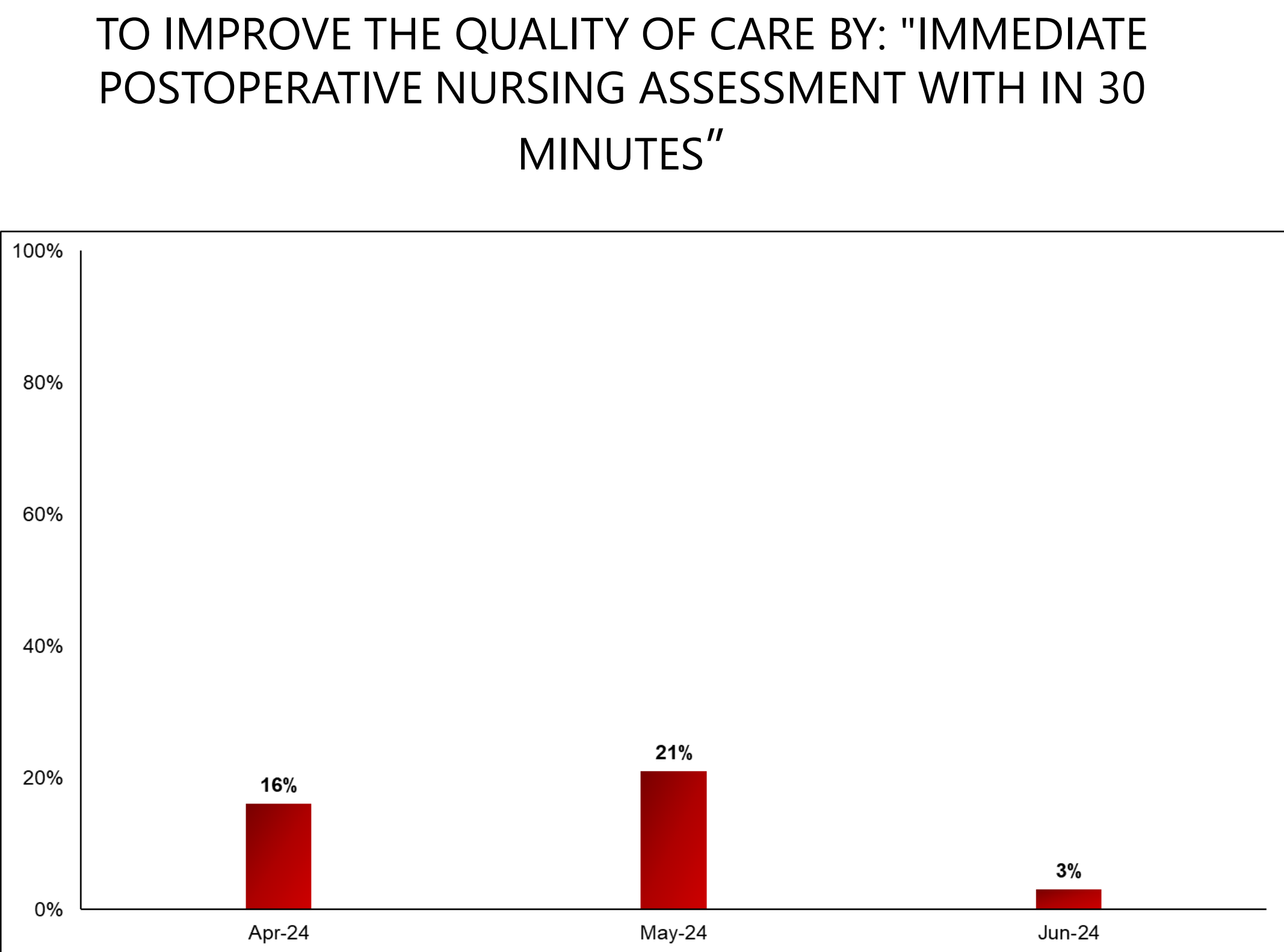
Post-operative care begins when a patient is transferred out of the operating room and continues for days or weeks depending on the type of surgery and the patient's other health conditions. The post operative period begins after surgery and focuses on enabling successful recovery. It aims to reduce mortality, length of stay, and costs through quality care. To enable faster recovery of the patients, post operatively, and enhance both documentation and clinical monitoring practices, a Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) quality improvement cycle was initiated in April 2024. the primary goal of this PDCA is to improve post operative assessment, care provision and its documentation.

METHODS

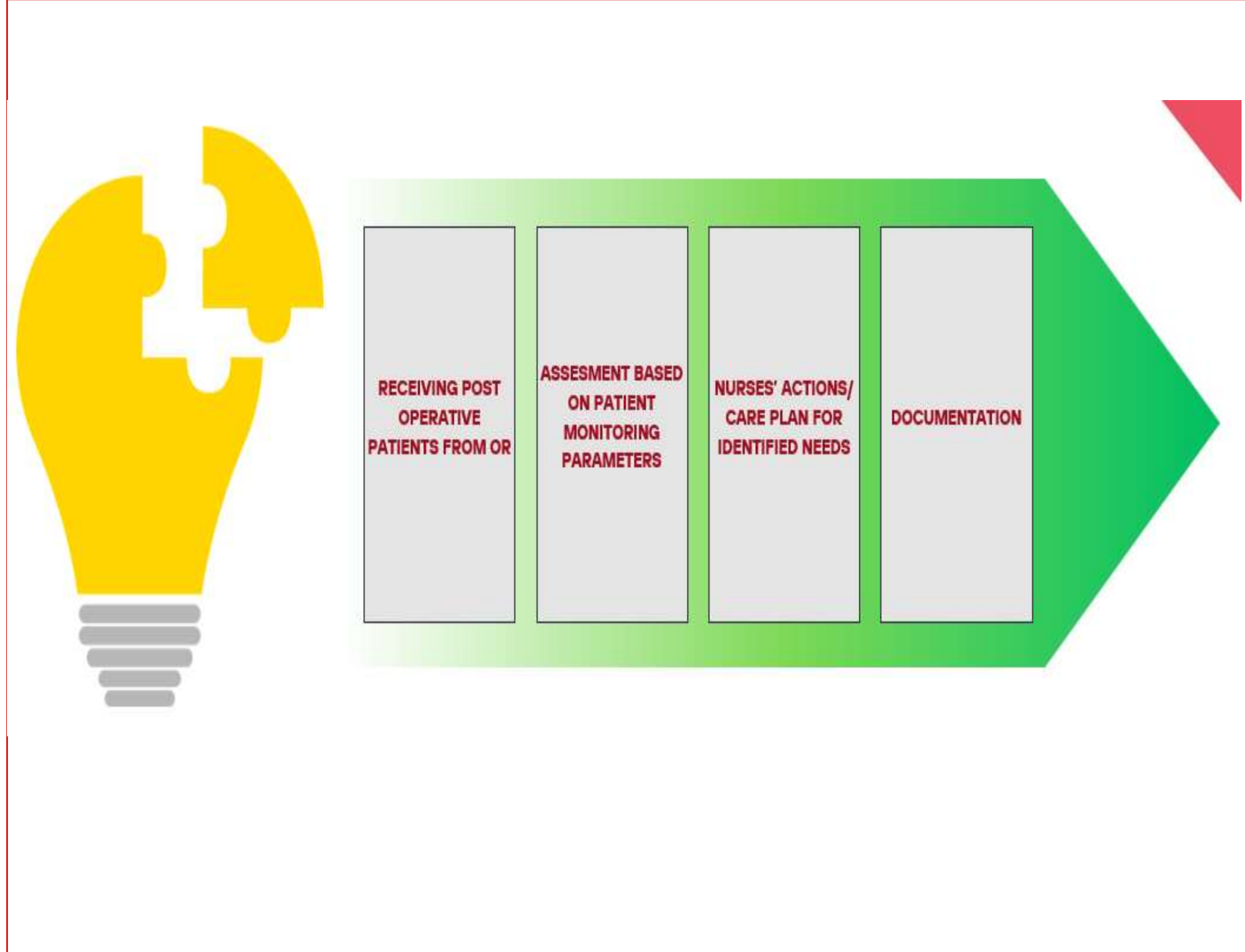
A post-operative nursing assessment is a critical evaluation nurses conduct following a patient's surgical procedure. This comprehensive assessment encompasses various aspects of the patient's health and well-being, focusing on immediate recovery, identifying potential complications, and establishing a baseline for ongoing care during the postoperative period. (U Nilsson · 2020). Four steps of PDCA methodology has been used in this Quality improvement project.

BASELINE DATA

An audit was conducted for 34 post-operative patients of surgical urology during April 2024. The evaluation focused on compliance with essential post-operative nursing assessment. Multiple gaps were identified including staff knowledge, attitude and communication barriers, lack of chart, and monitoring of the practices.



PROCESS FLOW



IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES

- Criteria is set at the departmental level that post-operative nursing assessment MUST be done within 30 minutes of patient received from Operating Room (OR) in an inpatient unit. The following steps were taken for implementation of the PDCA.
- Training and education of staff
 - Nursing competence level
 - To check monitoring of post operative patients' assessment in HIS on daily basis.
 - Monthly audits
 - Collection of data.

CONCLUSION

Compliance increased from a baseline median of 16% in the pre-implementation phase to 96% by July 2025 in the post-implementation phase, with two astronomical points indicating a marked shift in performance. While the project is ongoing, early results demonstrate the effectiveness of structured quality improvement efforts in enhancing patient care standards. Continued monitoring and reinforcement of best practices is essential to achieving and maintaining the target compliance rate of 97%.

CAUSES AND VARIATIONS

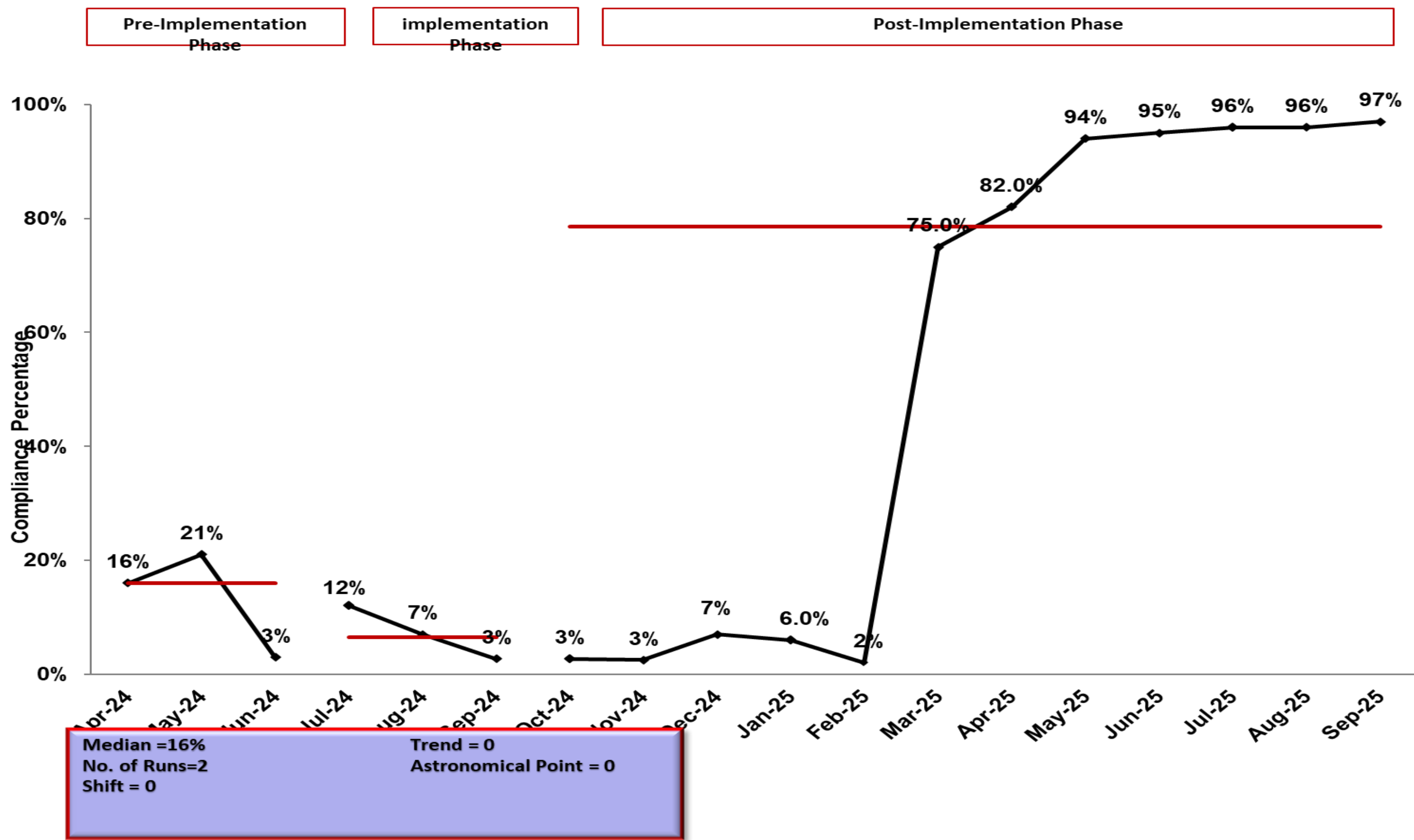
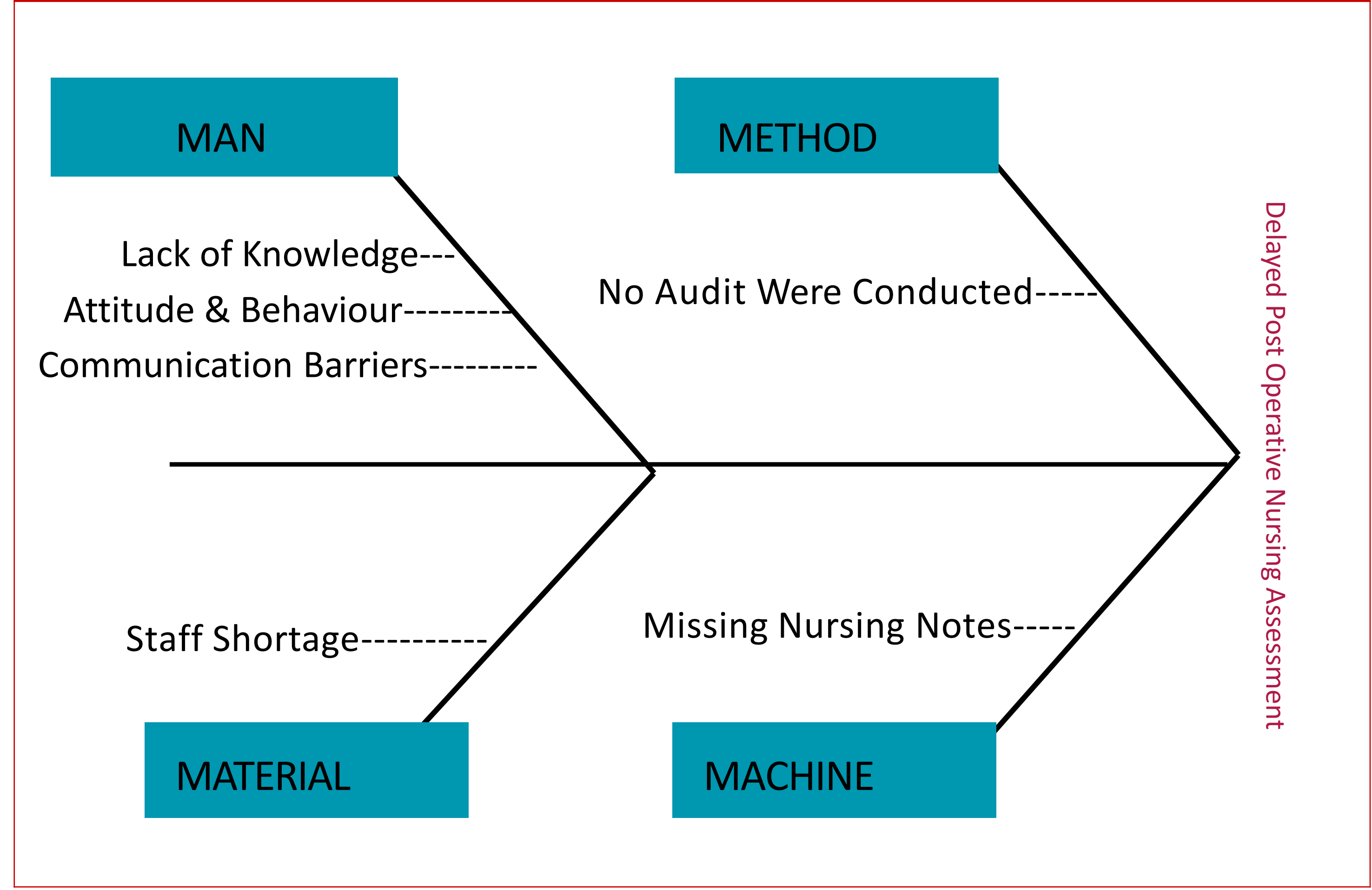


Figure 3: A run chart showing results of post operative nursing assessment at SKMCH&RC- Lahore

