Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre

Making the cold chain work in the Operating Room

A temperature compliance audit

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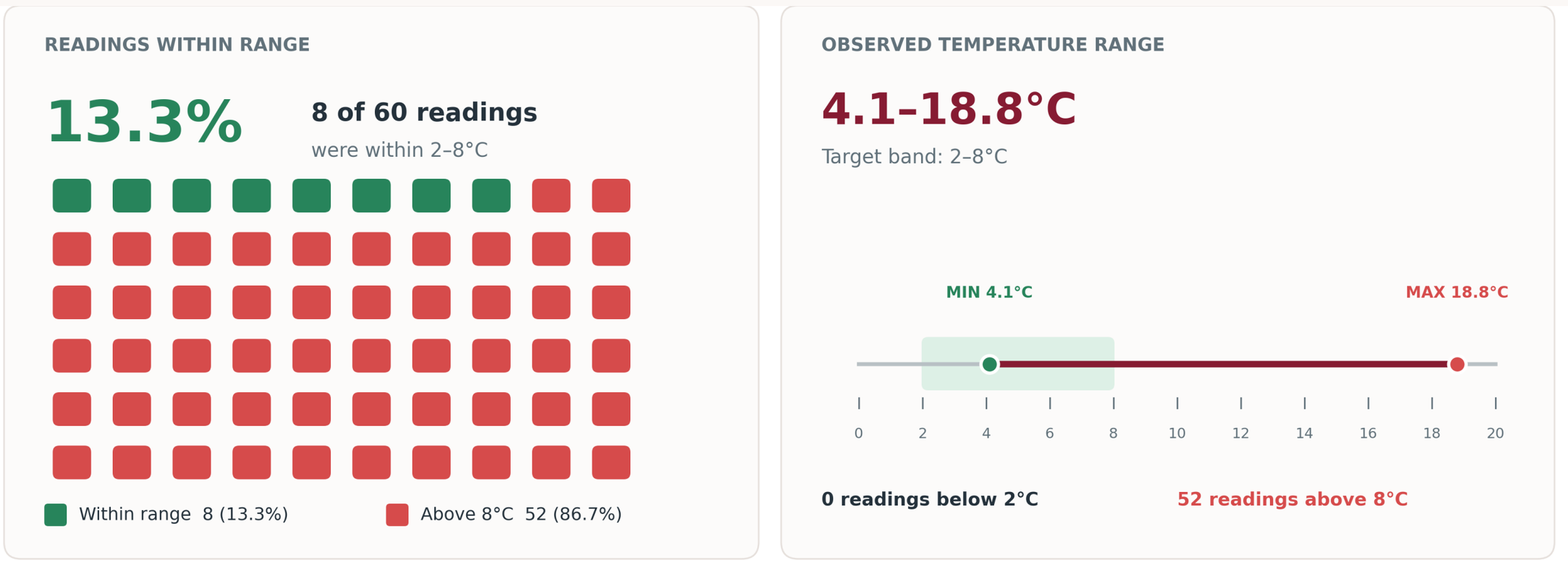
Introduction:

- Temperature-sensitive medicines require storage at 2–8°C to maintain their quality.
- In operating rooms, cold boxes (with Ice packs) offer a practical option for temporary medicine storage in resource limited healthcare setups.
- Hospital policy requires regular temperature monitoring and documentation for above.

Objective and Methods:

- A clinical audit was conducted in the operating rooms at SKMCH&RC Lahore from 4–8 August 2026.
- Objective was to assess whether operating-room cold-box temperatures met the hospital's 2–8°C policy and identify areas for improvement.
- Sixty recorded temperatures (using electronic, digital thermo-hygrometer) were compared with the target range; out-of-range readings and documented corrective actions were noted.

Results:



Conclusion and Recommendations:

- Majority of temperature readings were above target temperature, none were below target.
- Twice daily changing of ice-packs and using 2 ice packs per cold box were recommended.
- Awaiting second audit cycle.

References:

- SKMCH&RC. Hospital Policy: OR Cold Box Temperature Monitoring for Medicine Storage and Disposal.
- Temperature-Sensitive Medicines. NHS Medicines Management. 2019. Available at: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk