

WHAT WE LEARNED

Breaches in point-of-use pretreatment reduce efficiency and compromise patient safety. Consistent cleaning and communication between OR and SPD improve quality, reduce delays, and increase set availability. Structured processes and collaboration support sustained improvement

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

- Improve consistency of point-of-use instrument pretreatment to reduce bioburden and enhance patient safety.

BACKGROUND

- Inconsistent point-of-use pretreatment leads to hardened bioburden, reprocessing delays, and increased safety risks
- Rising instrument-related safety events highlighted the need for process improvement

EVIDENCE

- Point of Use treatment is a critical first step of instrument reprocessing.
- Effective pretreatment prevents hardened bioburden and reduces the risk of protocol breaches that extend processing time and increase infection risk.

OR/Decontamination Safety Checklist for Instrument Return



References

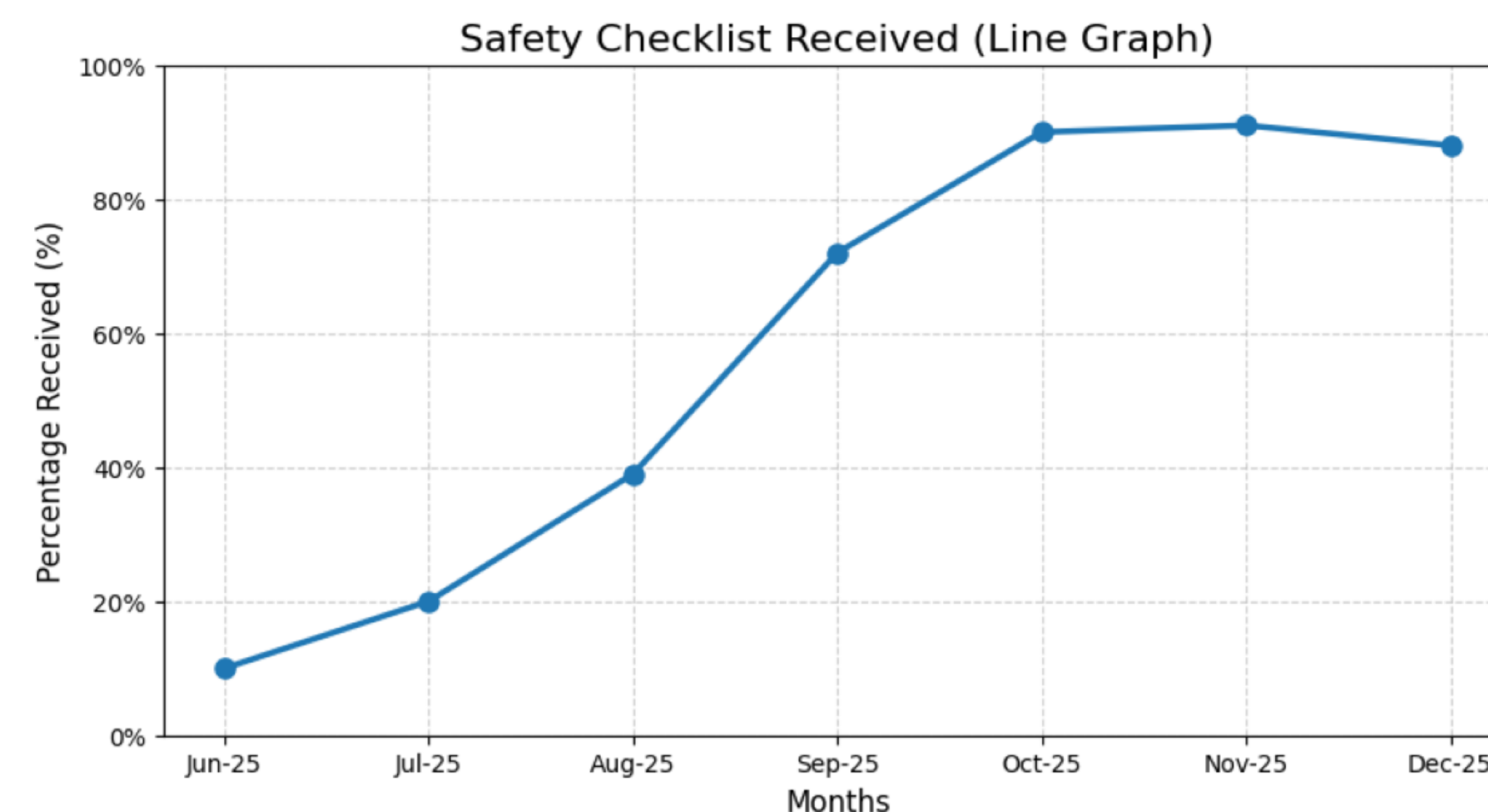


IMPLEMENTATION

- Implemented the OR/Decontamination Safety checklist
- Set clear expectations with education and accountability
- Used SPD Tracker for daily issue review and prioritization
- Expanded SPD participation in OR huddles
- Strengthened collaboration via Unit Council and shadowing initiatives

RESULTS

- Increased return and completion of the Safety Checklist
- Improved consistency of pretreatment across cases
- Enhanced OR-SPD communication and alignment



CONCLUSIONS

- Consistent and timely pretreatment strengthens safety, improves workflow efficiency and increases instrument readiness.
- Standardized processes and strong OR-SPD partnership support reliable performance and long-term improvement

CHALLENGES/FACILITATORS

- Challenges
 - Ensuring consistent staff compliance
 - Overcoming resistance to workflow changes
- Facilitators
 - Real time follow up with photo documentation
 - Strong OR-SPD communication and multidisciplinary teamwork

NEXT STEPS-

- Sustain point of use pretreatment compliance
- Maintain consistent use of the Safety Checklist
- Continue monitoring SSI rates to remain below 0.75 benchmark

