Quality Improvement Conference

Reducing Prosthodontics Wait Time to Appointment

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Problem Statement

Wait time to appointment (WTA) is measured as an indication of a patient's access to care. As of July 2022, 64% of prosthodontic patients waited >60 days for their first appointment.



Project Aim

Within 6 months,

64%

of prosthodontic patients

<24.7%

of prosthodontic patients

Lessons Learnt

CHALLENGES

- 1. Logistical challenges were the main difficulties in setting up this QI project
- 2. Change of treatment concept for new cases

STRATEGY

- Close discussion with Operations and Clinical department to determine feasibility of action plans
- 2. Regular feedback from ground staff and appropriate changes

Potential Solutions

1. Introduction of Prosthodontic Specialist Led Clinics (SLC)

5 dental officers' (DOs) schedules retabulated for 30min new patients instead of 45mins, a full day a week and consults required for all patients.

The scheduling *reviewed* and *reinforced* to all staff involved.

2. Improve accuracy of New Case Appointment Utilization

Increased

Triaging accuracy of patients

Efficiency of NC triaging with dedicated consult

Visibility of NC appointment slots

Accuracy of appointment scheduling

Outcomes & Impacts

- Decrease in WTA from 64% to 3.5% sustained over 6 months
- 96.5% of new patients obtain their first appointment with NDCS <60 days
- Incorrectly scheduled appointment types (new cases vs treatment slots) dropped from 32% to 10%

Prosthodontic WTA >60 Days

