# Quality Improvement Conference

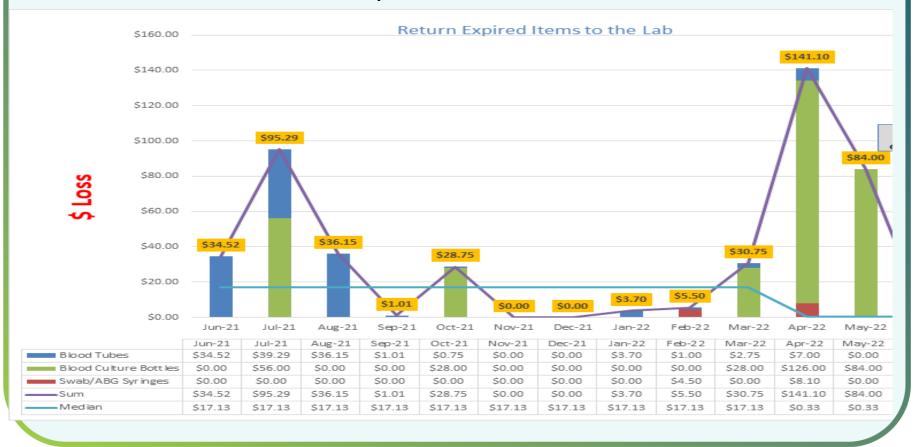
Reducing the Preanalytical Reagent Disposal

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## **Problem Statement**

In the absence of a systematic monitoring of expiry dates for the pre-analytical reagents issued to the wards, MAH experienced wastage in the disposal of expired reagents and laboratory items, which is inherent to most hospitals.



## **Project Aim**

- 1. Reduce the disposed items in order to save operational cost in the Laboratory.
- 2. Tighten the monitoring system for pre-analytical reagent issued to the ward, to attain full utilization of the items before the expiry dates.

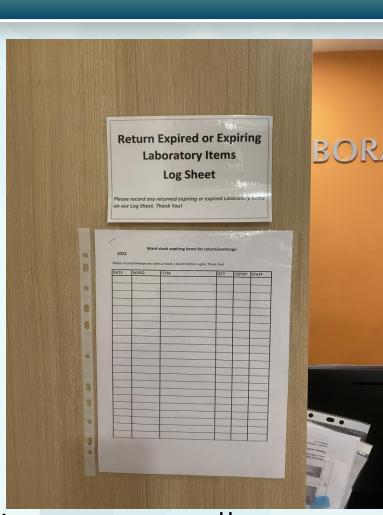
#### **Lessons Learnt**

Change becomes more acceptable for staff from Laboratory and the different Medical Areas, once the objective of implementing the improvement initiative is made very clear to all, that it to safeguard the safety of patients while optimizing the use of limited hospital (laboratory) resources.

The Laboratory Team continued to find ways to manage the holding cost of laboratory items stored in the Medical areas, by closely monitoring the maximum level of inventory versus the actual consumption of items by Area

### **Potential Solutions**





The consumption for each item across all areas were monitored on a weekly basis, to ascertain a reasonable maximum and minimum inventory level. A simple monitoring sheet per Medical Area was made visible and accessible in the Laboratory counter, and was used as a basis for replenishing the inventory for each area.

On top of this, an email alert is sent by the Laboratory Staff to the different Medical Areas if the supplies issued to them would be expiring within a month, encouraging them to return the laboratory supplies so the Laboratory can use them.

# Outcomes & Impacts

From Jun 2022 till date, the monthly average cost of wastage due to expired reagents and other laboratory peripherals dropped from \$28.75 to \$0.0. The reduced inventory level also helped to free up space needed to store the items. Staff are at peace, knowing that there are no expired items kept in the ward area which can be cited as an issue for internal clinical audits.

