

Wired for Change: Teamwork and Safety Leads to OR and SPD Relationship Building

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Description of Team

The Bone and Joint Institute at Hartford Hospital is a 10-Operating Room (OR), orthopedic focused facility at a larger, 900+ bed, level 1 trauma center.

Interdisciplinary Committee: Circulating RN, Surgical Technologist (ST), OR Manager, Sterile Processing Department (SPD) Manager, SPD Educator

Preparation and Planning

Used specialty system instruments (i.e. from specific company trays for joint replacement) are separated during case and not returned to their trays (exception of basic stringed instrument sets)

Awareness and acceptance of current practice’s challenges on OR and SPD teams with dedication to work together for solutions

Current process of using solid plastic bins to hold and transport separated soiled instruments on the case cart from OR to SPD is not a standard of best practice

Create process map of steps in cleaning and moving instruments from sterile field in OR to decontamination (DECON) room in SPD

Process mapping of new standard practice

Purchased and tagged wire baskets dedicated to new process

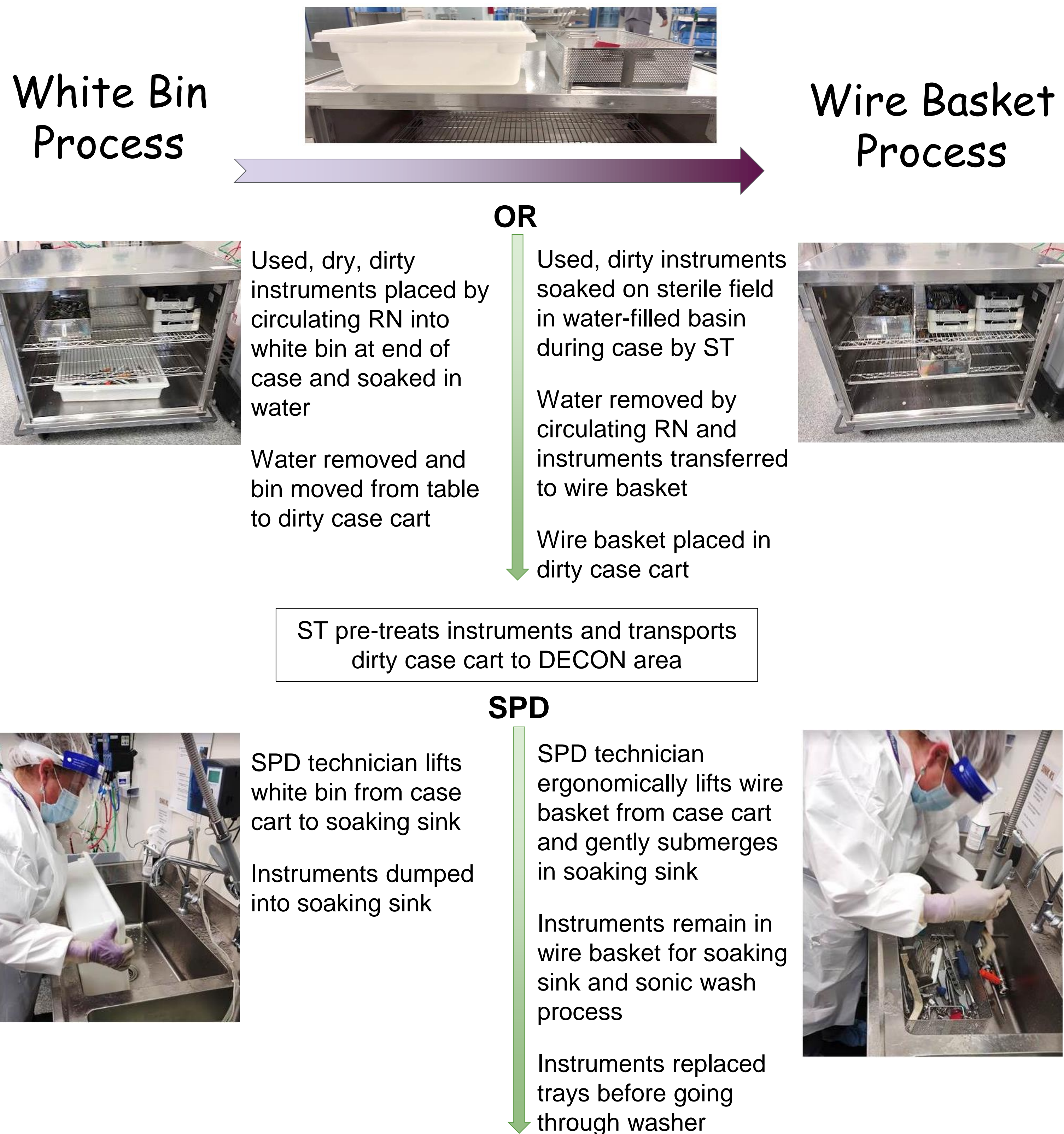
Assessment

- Initial observation and trial run in 1 OR
- Expand new process go live for all cases
- Collect and review staff feedback
- Adjustment process based on feedback
 - Order more wire baskets to meet demands of case volume
 - Change how clean wire basket is brought to the OR:

Stored in room → 1 wire basket placed on each clean case cart before brought from SPD to OR for surgery

Implementation

- Education provided to staff in OR and SPD
- Outlined new standard work process and defined roles/responsibilities
 - Described importance to both departments



Implications for Perioperative Nursing

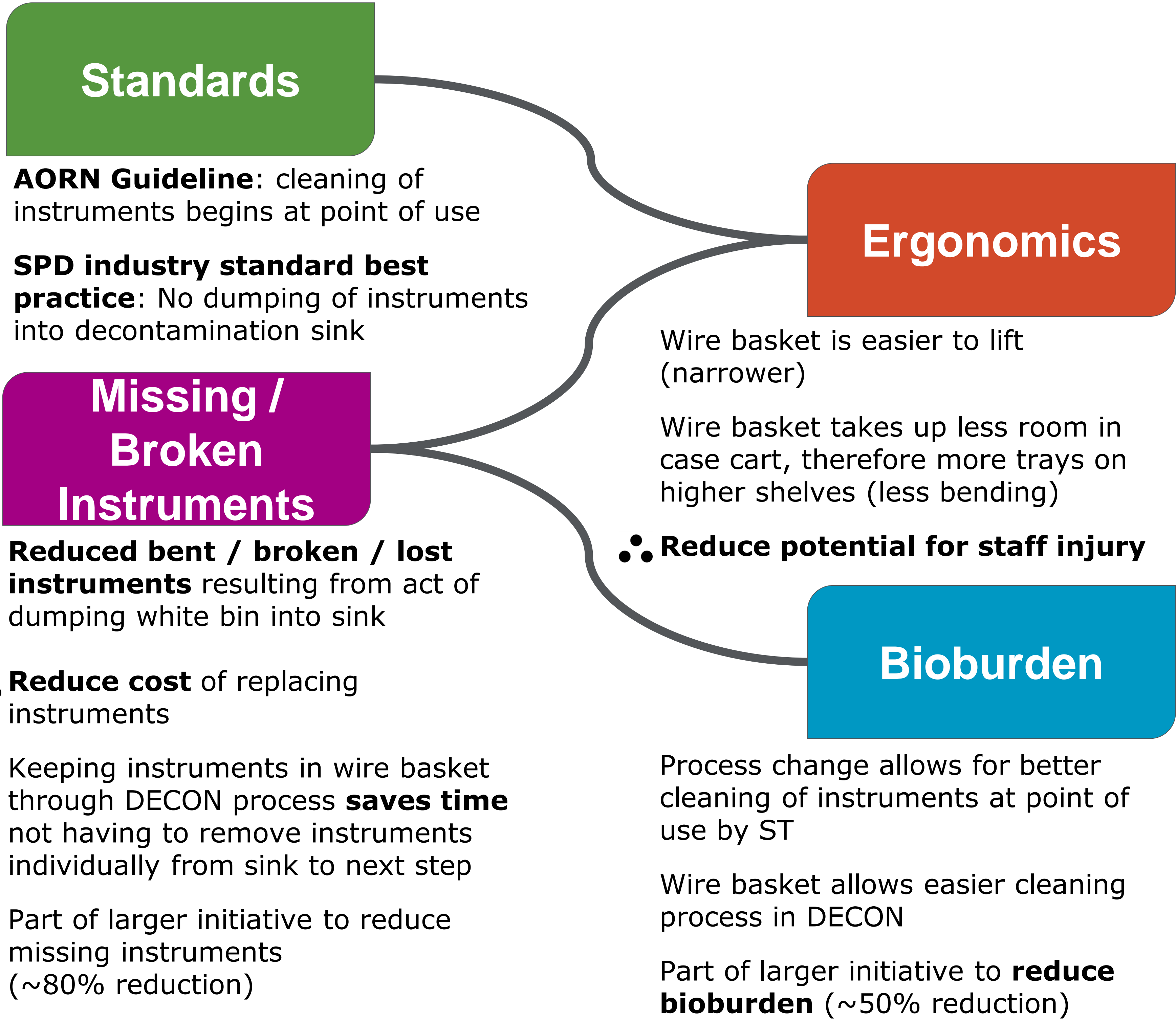
OR and SPD teams worked together for mutually agreeable solution to maximize staff safety and optimize best practice for cleaning and transporting surgical instruments, setting precedent for future collaboration

Promote teamwork and respect between interconnected departments to provide optimal patient care

Outcomes

Overall feedback from staff in OR and SPD showed compliance and appreciation of new process.

Interdepartmental cooperation lead to mutual benefits:



Average Occurrence of Incident

Year	Bioburden (per month)	Missing/ Wrong Inst (per month)
2020	10.7	28
2021	6.5	7.5
2022	5.5	4.8

New Process early Q2 2021