

## **Project Title**

Sustainability of Blood Results Validity for Chemotherapy Patients

## **Project Lead and Members**

Project lead: Pong Lee Yeng

Project members: Caroly Wong Yi Lin, Pong Lee Yeng, Haleeza, Dr Lim Yi Wan

## **Organisation(s) Involved**

Ng Teng Fong General Hospital

## **Healthcare Family Group Involved in this Project**

Medical, Nursing

## **Applicable Specialty or Discipline**

Oncology

## **Aims**

We aim to evaluate the sustainability of blood results validity period of 14-21 days for pre-chemotherapy patients since the last study in Dec'2018.

Another objective is to ensure the current standardized guidelines for blood validity is still the proven up-to date evidence-based practice.

## **Background**

See poster appended/ below

## **Methods**

See poster appended/ below

## **Results**

See poster appended/ below

## **Lessons Learnt**

- With the sustainability of standard guidelines of 14 to 21 days blood validity, patients' repeated blood taking were minimized and patients' chemotherapy treatment not delayed unnecessarily.
- Effective communication is paramount so that work process in the Unit ran more efficiently and smoothly with the reduction of need to clarify with medical oncologists or based on subjective opinion.

## **Conclusion**

See poster appended/ below

## **Additional Information**

This project is related to an earlier project titled "Blood Test Validity for Chemotherapy Patients".

## **Project Category**

Care & Process Redesign

Quality Improvement, Job Effectiveness

## **Keywords**

Blood Results Validity, Chemotherapy Patients, Evidence-Based Practice

## **Name and Email of Project Contact Person(s)**

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# SUSTAINABILITY OF BLOOD RESULTS VALIDITY FOR CHEMOTHERAPY PATIENTS

MEMBERS: CAROLY WONG YI LIN, PONG LEE YENG HALEEZA, DR LIM YI WAN

- SAFETY
- PRODUCTIVITY
- QUALITY
- COST
- PATIENT EXPERIENCE
- TEAMWORK
- COMMUNICATION

## Define Problem, Set Aim

### Problem/Opportunity for Improvement

There used to be no standard guideline for patients' blood result validity especially prior to their first chemotherapy treatment in A71 Chemotherapy Unit. However, since the implementation of a standard guideline for the blood results validity in the unit, there was a significant reduction in patients' unnecessary trips to hospital for blood taking; lessen undue delay to their treatment therapy and lastly, it promotes effective communication among the team members including the oncologists and the nurses, leading to consistent practises in the Unit.

### Aim

We aim to evaluate the sustainability of blood results validity period of 14-21 days for pre-chemotherapy patients since the last study in Dec'2018.

Another objective is to ensure the current standardized guidelines for blood validity is still the proven up-to date evidence-based practice.

## Select Changes

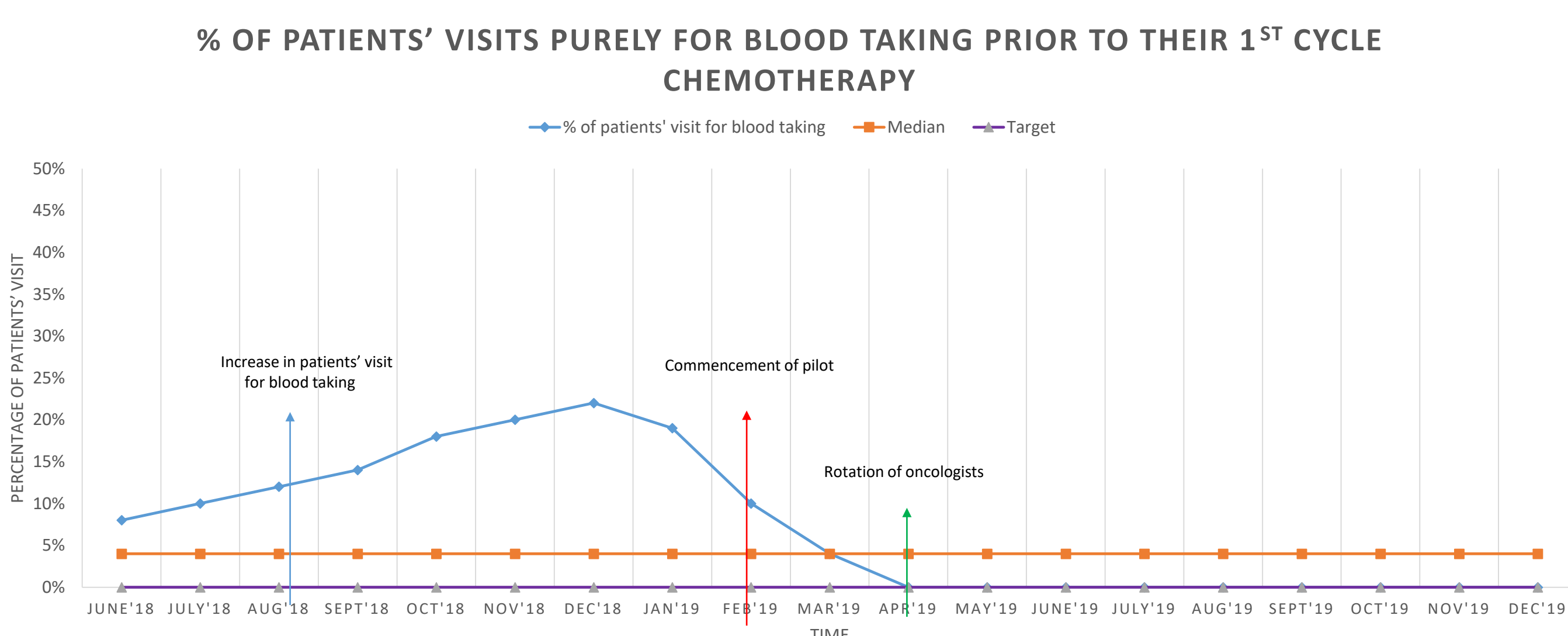
### What are all the probable solutions? Which ones are selected for testing?

The project team members re-examine the sustainability of the blood test validity since the implementation one year ago. Discussion were sought with the oncologists on any outstanding issues since the commencement of the implementation. Target groups for the guidelines include the oncologists and the chemo unit nurses.

Baseline blood tests taken before 1st Cycle Chemotherapy											
Validity Period : 14 - 21 Days											

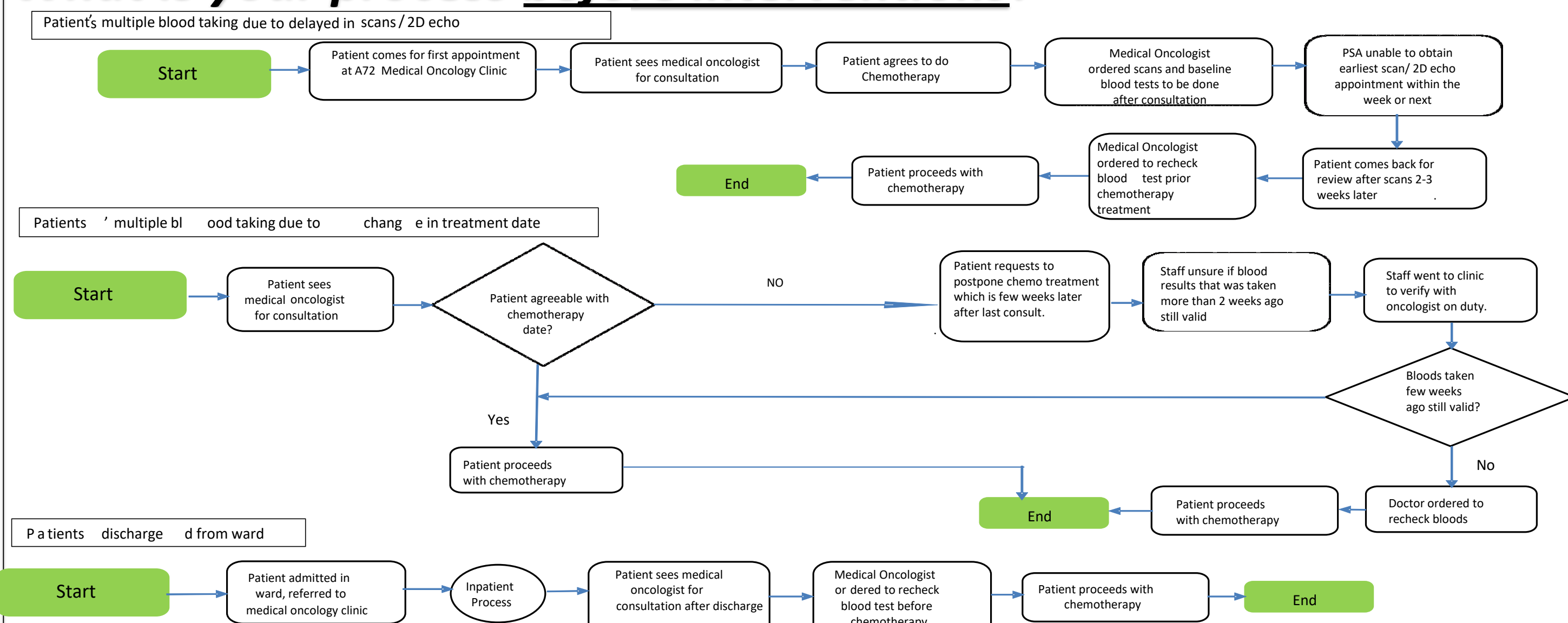
## Establish Measures

### What was your performance before interventions?

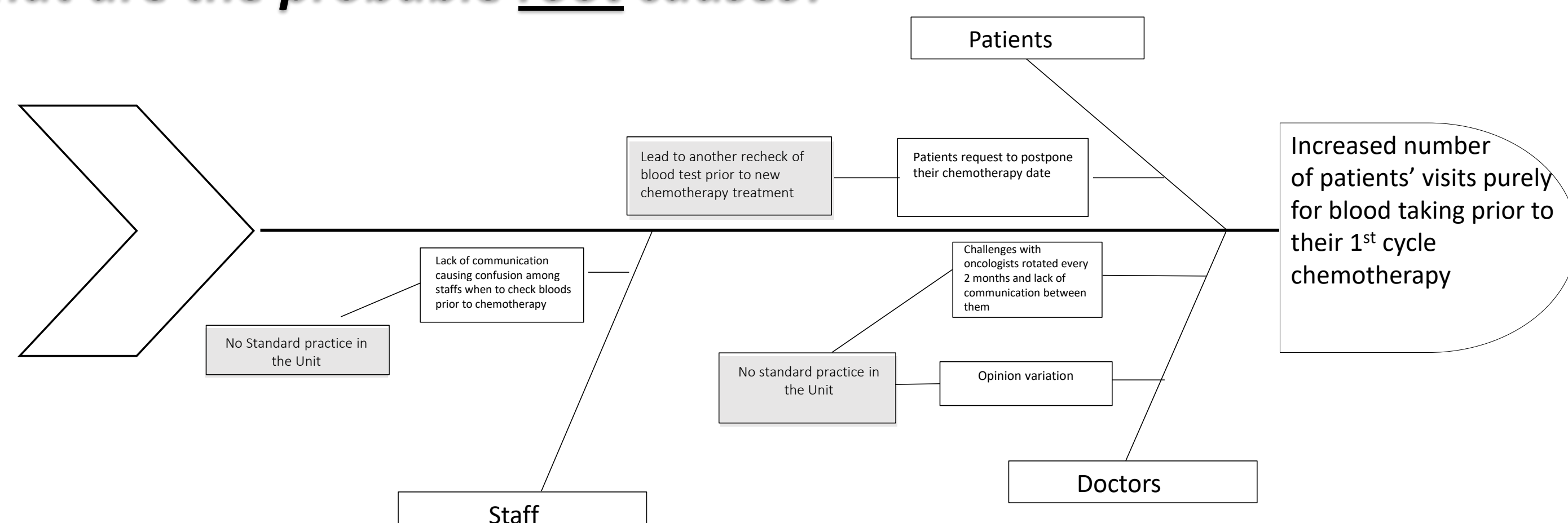


## Analyse Problem

### What is your process before interventions?



### What are the probable root causes?



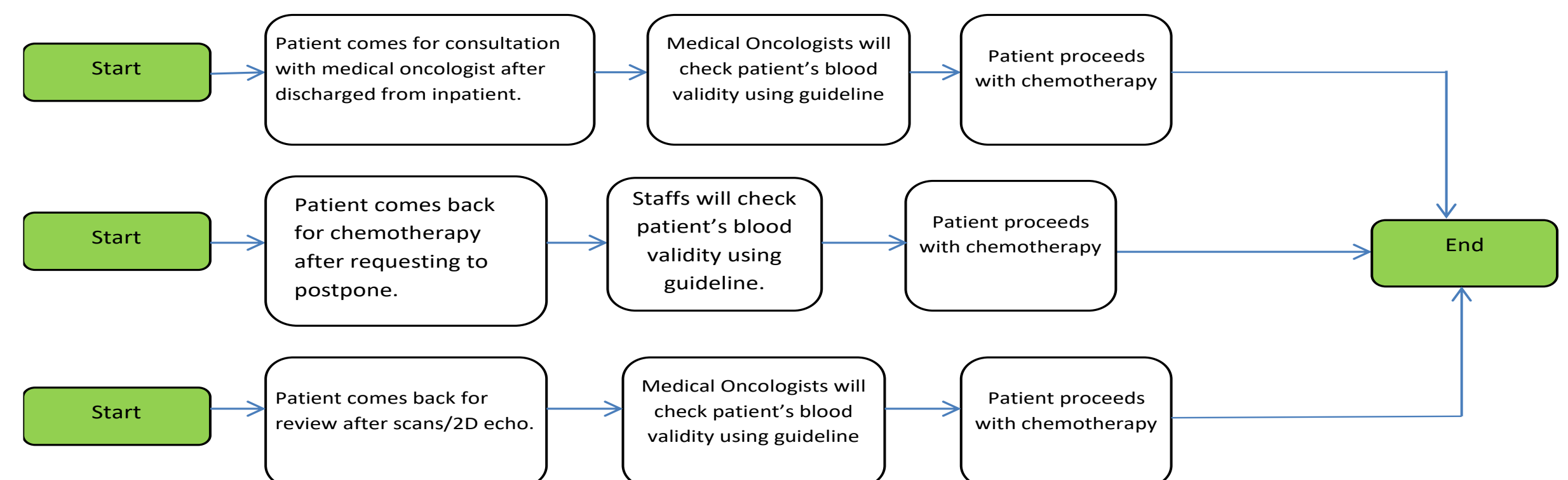
## Test & Implement Changes

1. Blood validity guidelines practises were kept consistent in the consultation rooms and the treatment room throughout the year.

### Results:

- Work process in Chemotherapy unit has improved with 0% repeated blood taking. It was ran more efficiently with no movement in and out of consult rooms seeking advice from Medical Oncologist to clarify validity of blood results
- Patient has good experience with no unnecessary blood taking and can proceed with chemotherapy treatment according to plan.

### After Implementation



## Spread Changes, Learning Points

### What are/were the strategies to spread change after implementation?

After the implementation, we managed to reduce the rate of patients making repeated trips back to hospital purely for blood taking or delay their treatment. Despite the rotation of the Oncologists every two months, the process of achieving full success rate was not compromised and was sustainable with the reinforcement of the guidelines for all the Oncologists that come on board to follow for last one year.

### What are the key learnings from this project?

- With the sustainability of standard guidelines of 14 to 21 days blood validity, patients' repeated blood taking were minimized and patients' chemotherapy treatment not delayed unnecessarily.
- Effective communication is paramount so that work process in the Unit ran more efficiently and smoothly with the reduction of need to clarify with medical oncologists or based on subjective opinion.
- The blood validity guidelines is clearly proven in this review study.