



Collaboration between Pharmacy Store and Nursing to manage Clean Utility room

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INTRODUCTION

Pharmacy store staff and ward nurses are responsible to maintain housekeeping of the clean utility (CU) rooms. The most common ward check findings is First-Expiry-First-Out (FEFO) non-compliance which non-compliance rate of up to 40% of stocks has been observed for infusions. Medication was found to be returned to the wrong location. Expired infusions were also found to be put back to shelves. There was one RMS raised that expired infusion was given to patient.

AIM

To reduce wastage and medication error in CU rooms through collaboration between pharmacy store and nursing team to improve FEFO compliance and correct placement of infusions.

METHODOLOGY

Engagement session was done with the Nursing team from W39 to learn about the reasons of FEFO non-compliance and misplacement of items back to shelf including expired stocks.

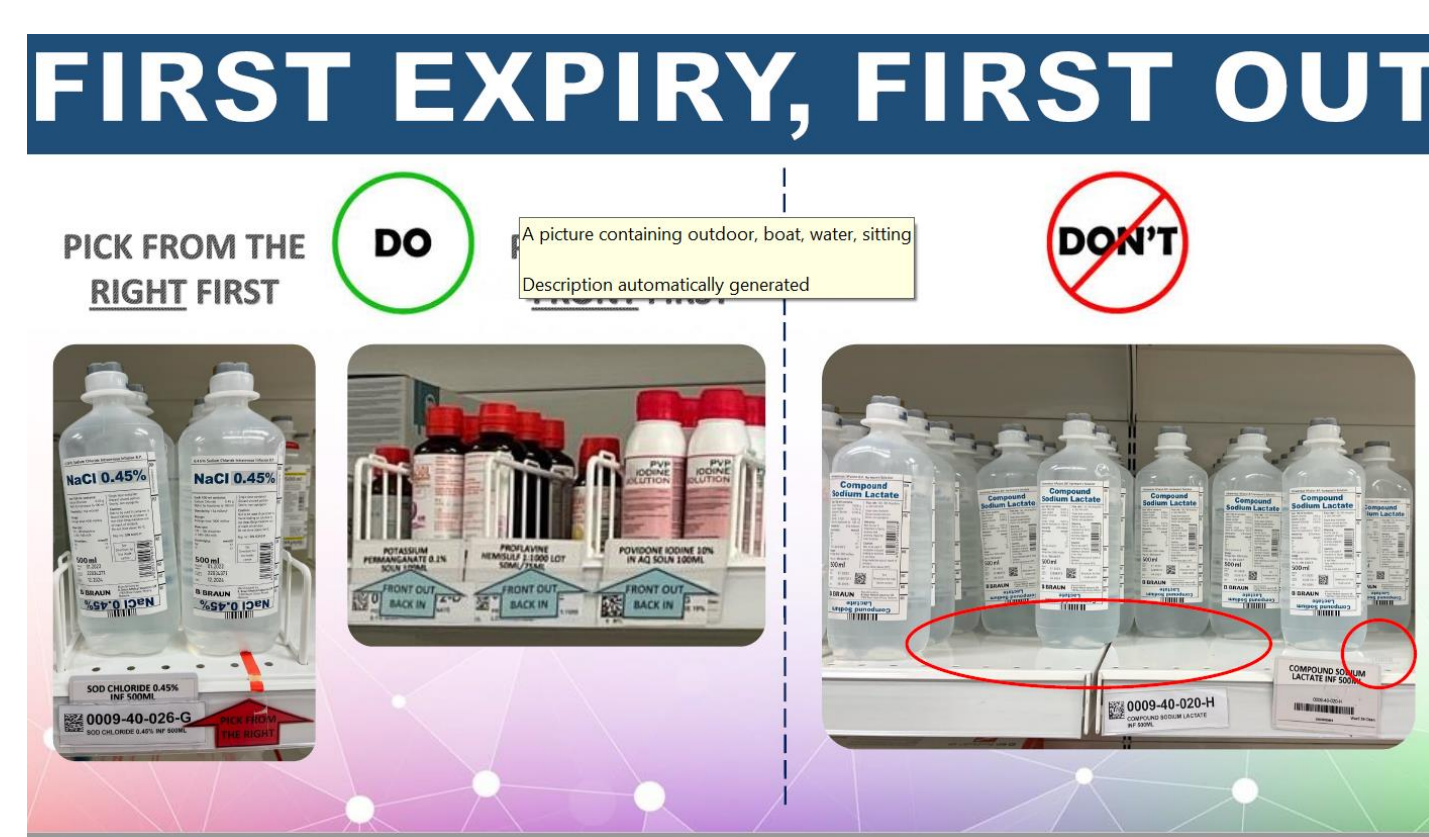
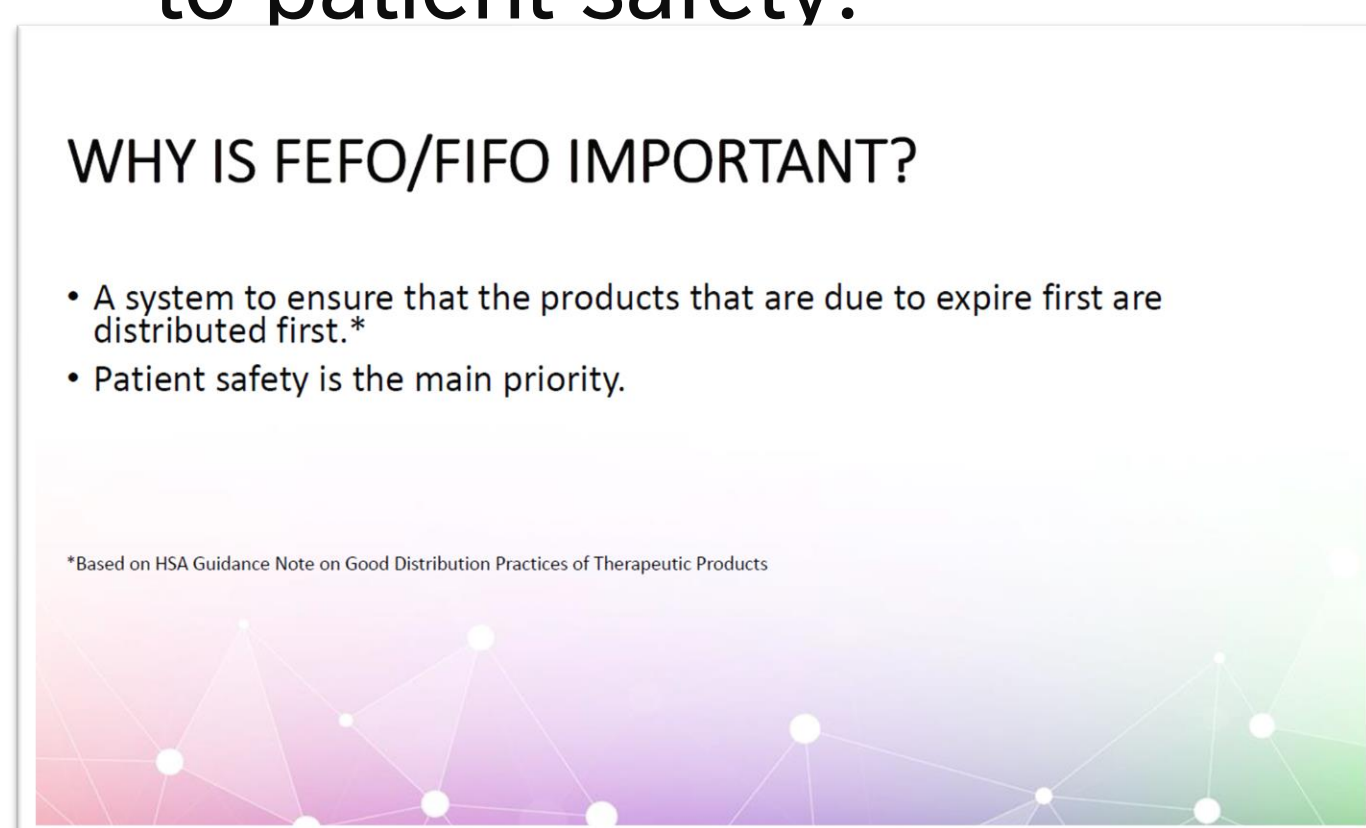


Example of FEFO non-compliance:

Sodium Chloride 0.9% 500ml bottles are picked by convenience from both ends of the shelves.

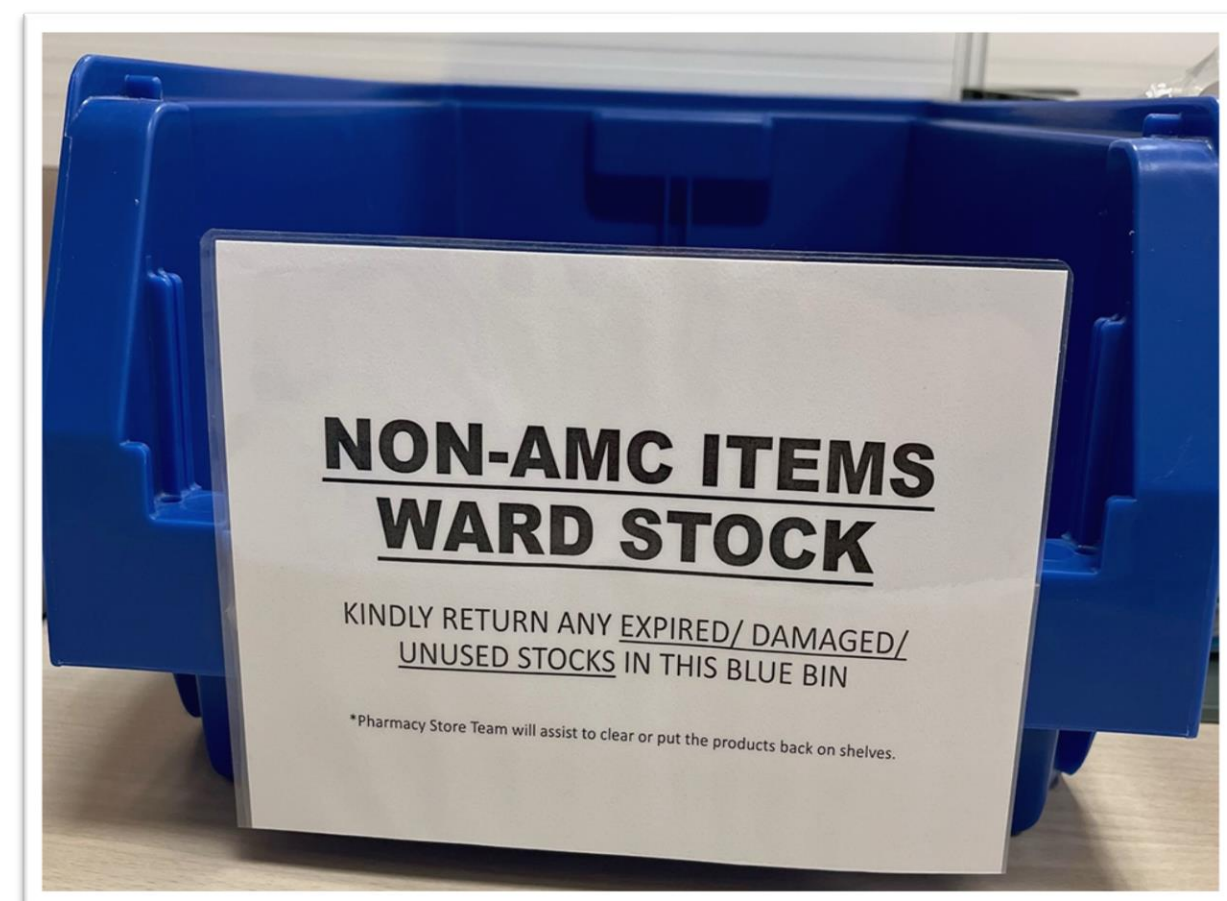
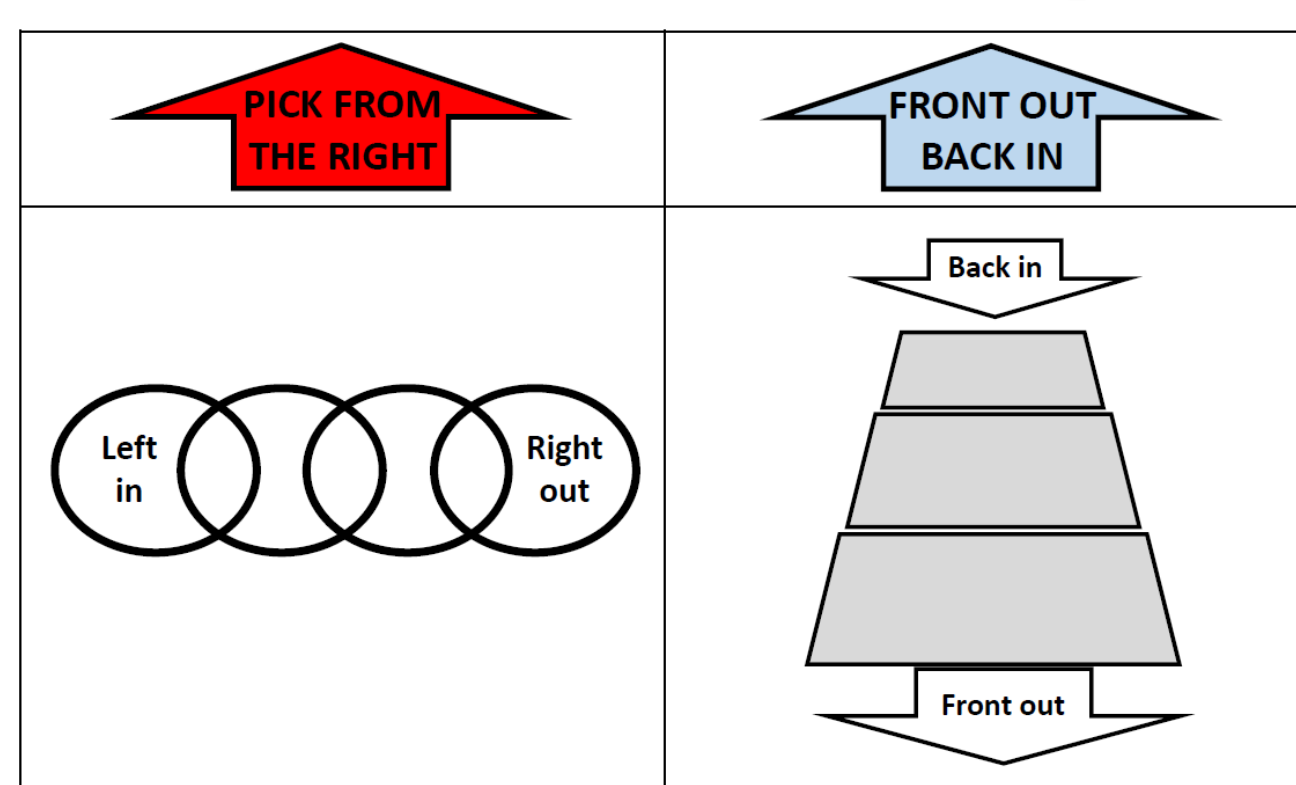
Reasons shared include picking and returning items out of convenience and insufficient awareness of the importance of FEFO and misplacement. Measures were implemented after discussion with nursing team.

- Educational training on the importance of FEFO and attribute to patient safety.



- Reminder tags and poster on shelves.
- Blue bin for returned products (i.e. unused, expired).

FIRST EXPIRY FIRST OUT (FEFO)



After the intervention, the rate of FEFO compliance, expired items and correct placement of infusions were monitored. End user satisfaction survey was also conducted to determine if the measures were useful for the nursing team.

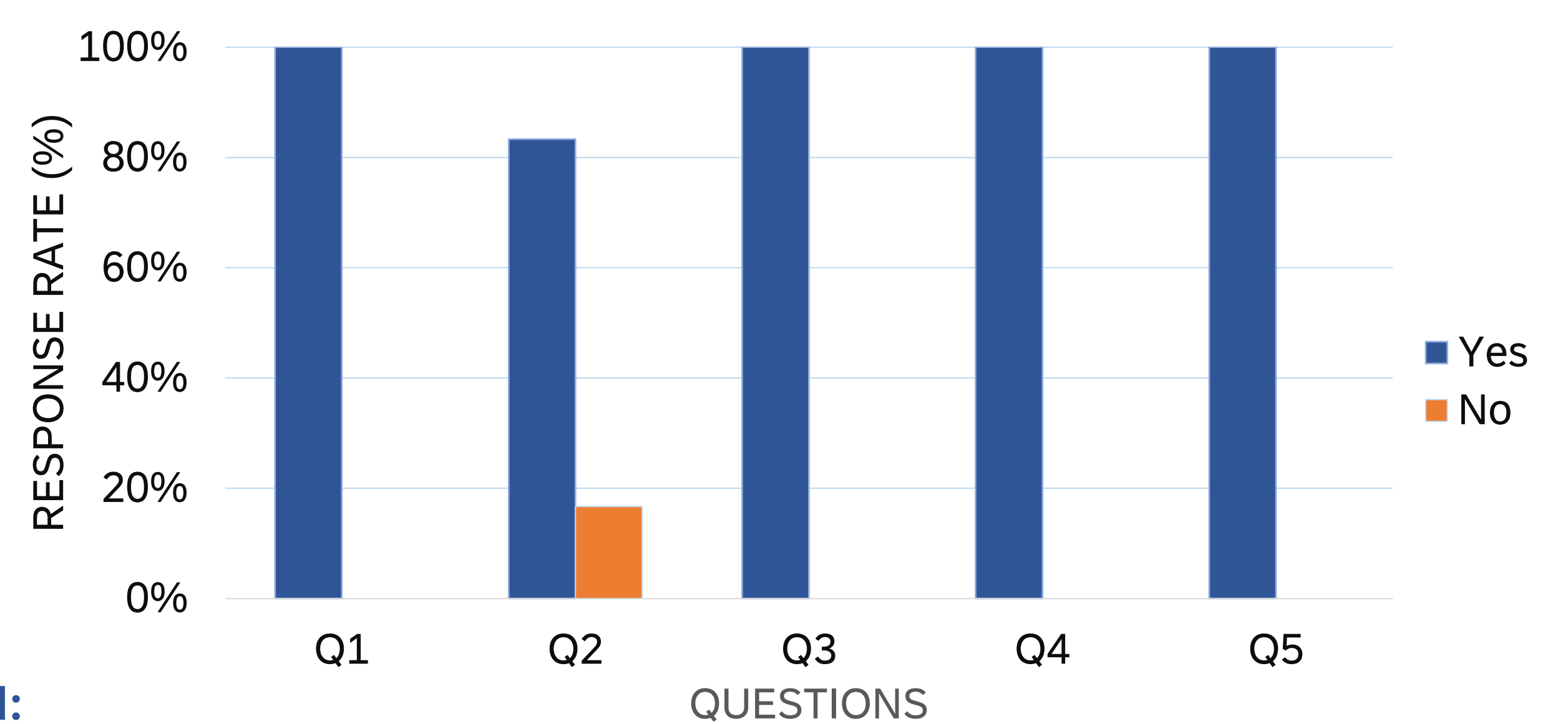
CONCLUSION

The collaboration between pharmacy store and nursing team has significantly value-added to the overall management of infusions in CU room. With increased awareness on FEFO and correct placement of returned items, it contributes to better inventory management as well as patient safety. These measures have been in place successfully with the effective engagement and cooperation between pharmacy store and the nursing team in Ward 39 and will progressively be applied to all clean utility rooms in SKH.

RESULTS

- Positive feedbacks** were received from online survey conducted. Nurses found the training and measures effective as helpful reminders to improve FEFO compliance.

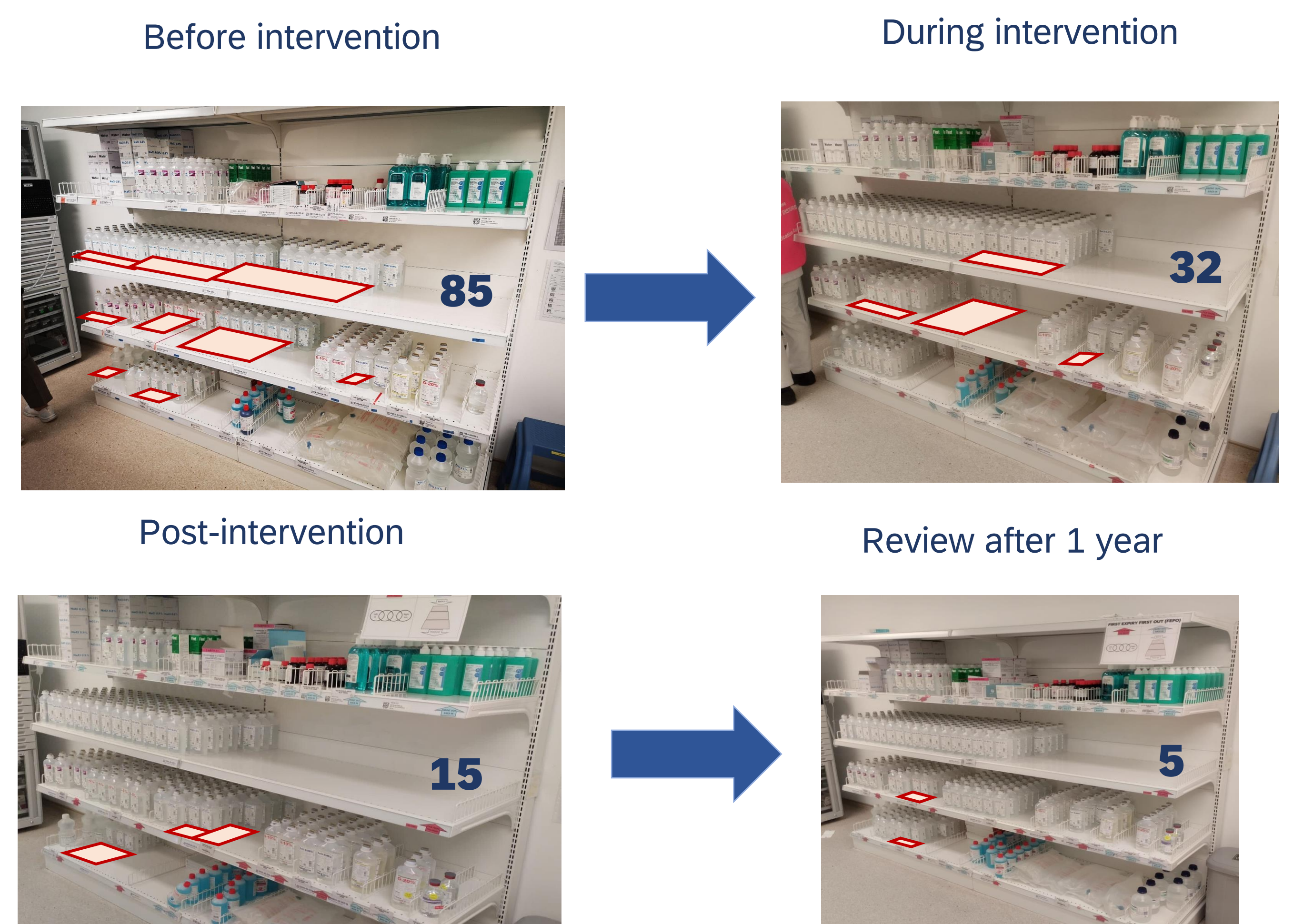
FEFO Post-Implementation Satisfaction Survey (n=6)



Legend:

- Q1. Are the coloured tags useful as reminder to pick items in FEFO sequence?
- Q2. Does allocation of the segregated blue bin help in better management of the returned products (i.e. unused/expired/damaged) in the CU room?
- Q3. Did you find the training practical and helpful?
- Q4. Do you feel competent and confident on practising FEFO standards after the training?
- Q5. Would you recommend the same measures to improve FEFO standards in other wards?

- With the intervention, rate of FEFO compliance for infusions improved progressively, **resulting in more than 95% compliance** based of estimation of stocks counts, as depicted by the photos. Number of consumables taken without following the FEFO compliance was 85 and it eventually reduced to 5 in after a 1-year review in 2023.
- There is also **absence of findings of items placed in the wrong location or expired items** found on shelves during the monitoring period.



Result of interventions:

Reduction in shaded areas as shown in the photos which depicted the items that are not taken by nurses in FEFO sequence.