

IMPROVING STROKE CARE IN WESTERN NEBRASKA

**Regional West Medical Center
Scottsbluff, NE 69361**

Process of Identifying Need

- **RWMC Data re: Stroke Care Efficiency**
 - CT Results available within 45 minutes of presentation to ED
 - Alteplase administration within 60 minutes of presentation to ED
- **Stroke Outcomes and Evidence Based Practice Compliance**
- **CMS Stroke Core Measure Data**
- **LB 722 – Stroke System of Care Act**
- **National Literature re: Stroke Prevalence and Care Standards**
- **Alignment with RWMC Mission, Vision, and Values**
- **Critical Access Hospital Network Needs**

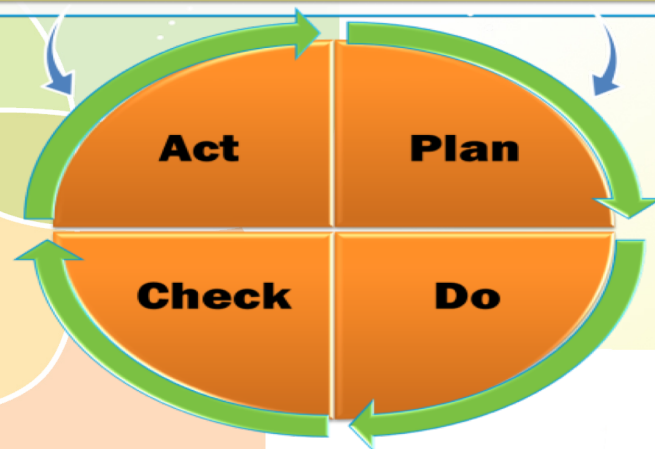
Process Improvement Methods

IHI Model for Improvement

What are we trying to accomplish?

How will we know that a change is an improvement?

What change can we make that will result in improvement?



Four Phases in the Life Cycle of an Improvement Project

1. Innovation – Coming up with new ideas for change
2. Pilot – Testing the change on a small scale
3. Implementation – making the change the new standard process in a defined setting
4. Spread – Implementing the change in several settings and hardwiring the change

Process Improvement Categories

Leadership

- Stroke Medical Director – CMO
- Stroke Coordinator - RN MSN (August 2016)

Processes

- Gap Analysis
- Stroke Coordinator Attendance at Stroke Alerts
- Evidence Based Practice
- 24/7 Availability for CT

Education

- Stroke Symposium – 2017 & 2018 (Swedish Medical Center)
- House-Wide Stroke Education
- Mock Stroke Alert

Outreach

- Critical Access Hospitals
- Community

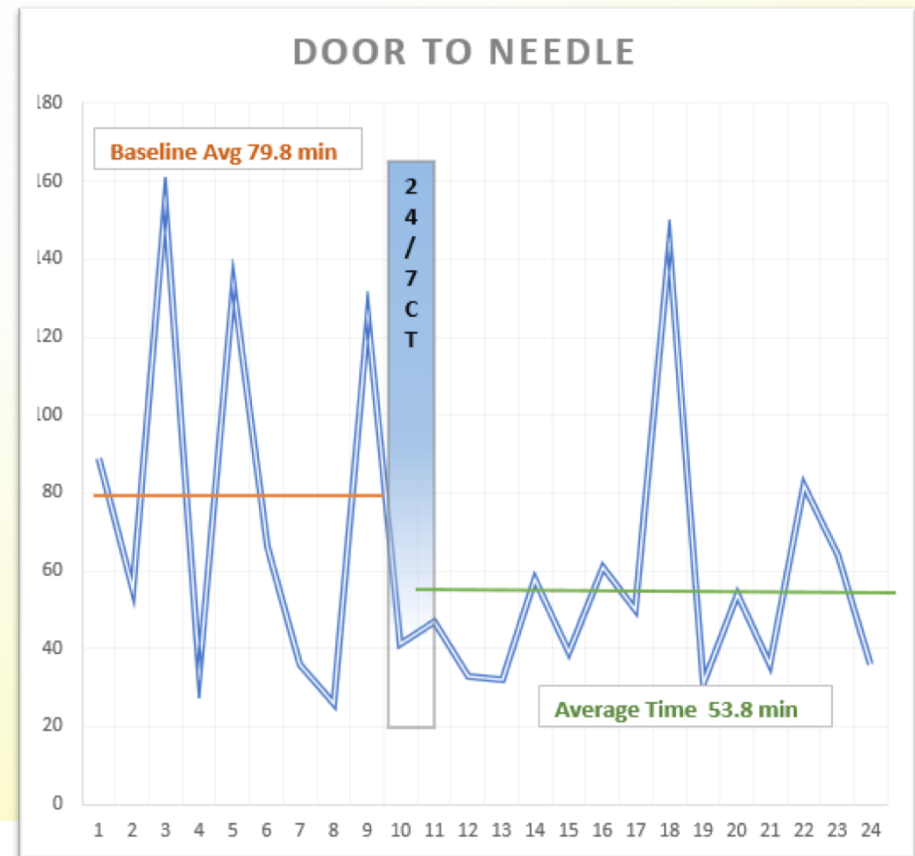
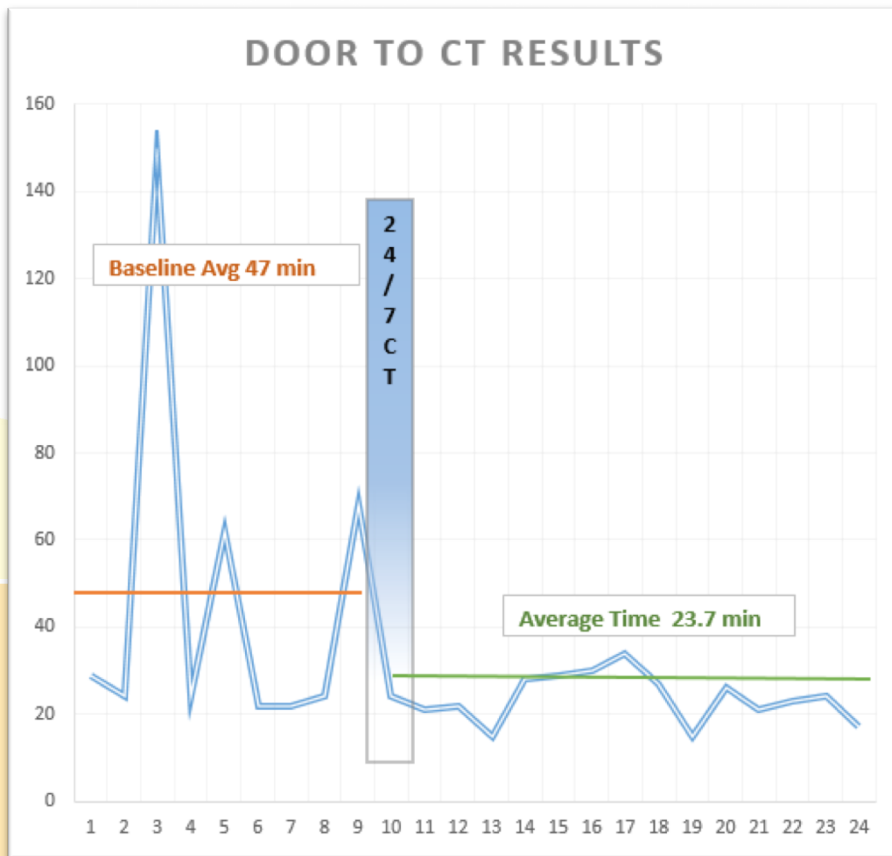
Process Improvements

- **24/7 CT Coverage**
- **Utilization of white boards for recording patient weights; earlier calculation of Alteplase doses**
- **Stocking recommended blood pressure supplies in the ED Pyxis**
- **Triage nurse initiation of Stroke Alerts**
- **Increased and earlier Stroke Robot Utilization**
- **Updates to SNF Transfer Sheets**

Results

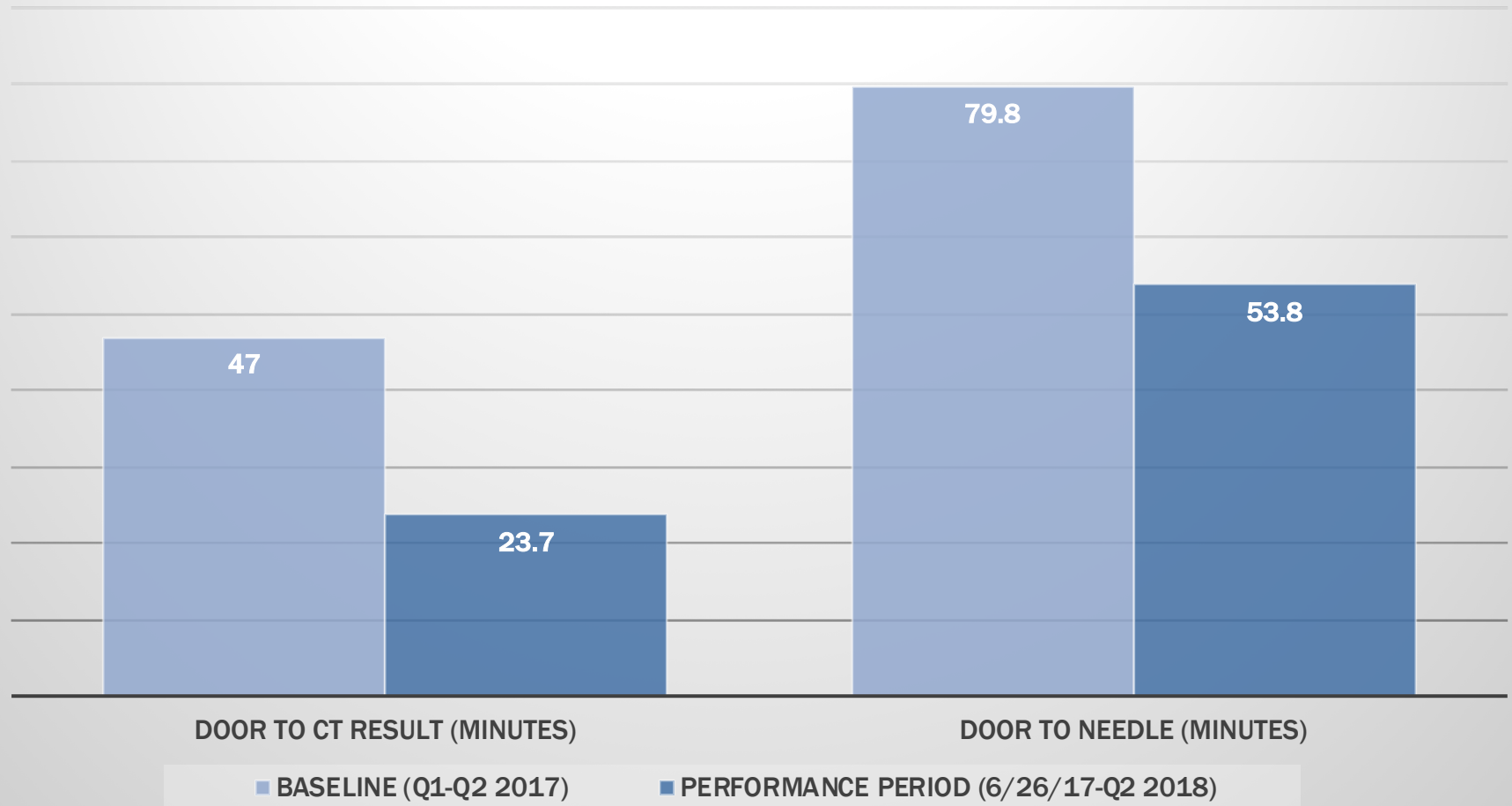
Baseline : 1/1/17 to 6/25/17

Improvement Phase: 6/26/17 to 6/30/18 (24/7 CT Implemented 6/26/17)



Results

RWMC Stroke Care Improvement Initiative



Lessons Learned

- **Input and evidence based research are powerful tools to grow a quality stroke program.**
- **All aspects of a process are valuable in identifying opportunities for improvement.**
- **Consistent monitoring and case-by-case review will be implemented to sustain and facilitate growth of the stroke program**
- **Collaboration within the organization and with community and regional stakeholders is a critical consideration for system improvements**