Blood Culture Contamination: How low can you go?

Christine Townsend MSN,CNS,CCNS,CEN,RP
Charles Webb BSN, RN, CEN

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Program Goals

- Reduce blood culture contamination rates to <3.0%
- Develop a sustainable program
- Build staff ownership

Relevance

- National standard <3.0%
- Increased healthcare related costs
- Increased potential for harm

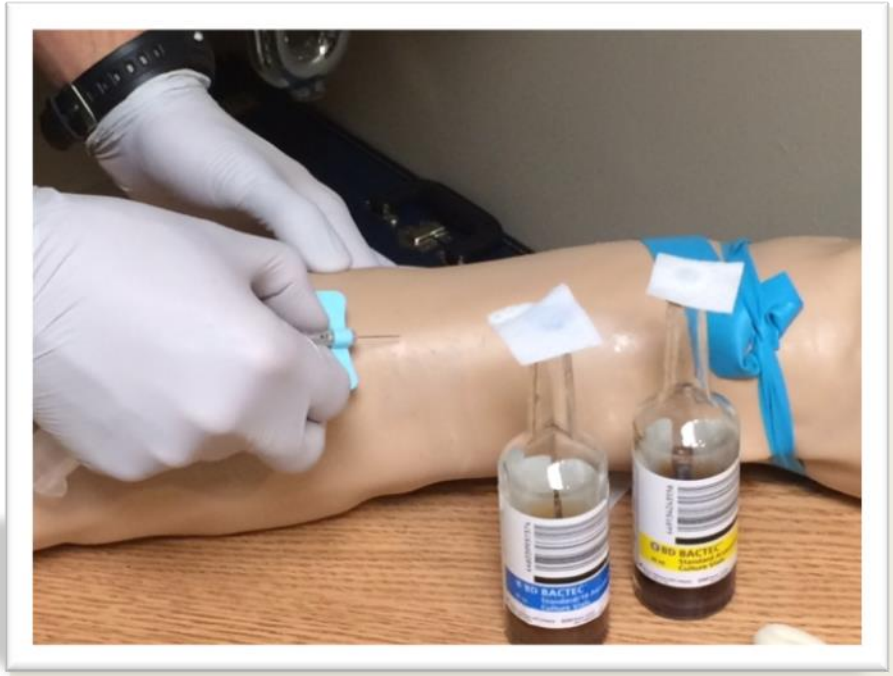
Strategy and Implementation

- Identified the problem
  - Monthly contamination rates: 1.2%-6.4%

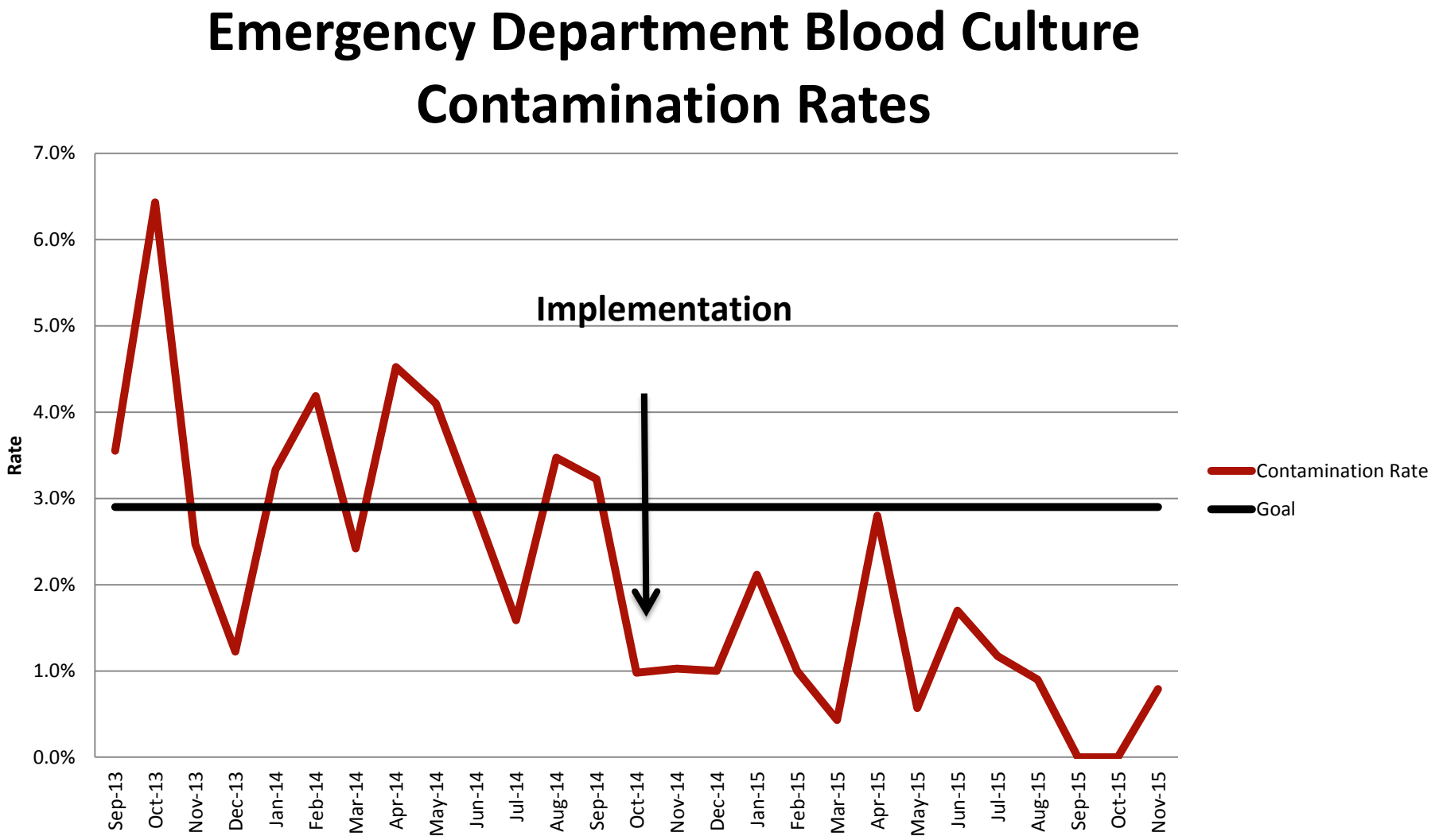
- Problem analysis
  - Review of data for trends
  - Observation
  - Literature review

Strategy and Implementation

- Develop plan and measures
  - Blood Culture Crew
  - Elimination of high risk collection methods
  - Feedback plan
- Implement
  - Skills competency



Evaluation


Emergency Department Blood Culture Contamination Rates
Implementation
Rate
7.0%
6.0%
5.0%
4.0%
3.0%
2.0%
1.0%
0.0%
Sep-13
Oct-13
Nov-13
Dec-13
Jan-14
Feb-14
Mar-14
Apr-14
May-14
Jun-14
Jul-14
Aug-14
Sep-14
Oct-14
Nov-14
Dec-14
Jan-15
Feb-15
Mar-15
Apr-15
May-15
Jun-15
Jul-15
Aug-15
Sep-15
Oct-15
Nov-15
Contamination Rate
Goal

Implications for practice

- End user involvement
- Culture of ownership & safety
- Collaboration

References

Harding, A., Bollinger, S. (2013). Reducing Blood culture contamination rates in the emergency department. *Journal of Emergency Nursing. 31(1)*, e1-e5 doi 10.1016/j.jen2012.10.009

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Questions