

## Objective

To decrease the incidence of healthcare-associated venous thromboembolism (VTE) at CHI Health Mercy Council Bluffs (MCB) using FOCUS-Plan Do Study Act (PDSA) methodology.

## Background

- A leading cause of preventable hospital death
- More than 50% of VTEs are healthcare-associated
- MCB VTE events fiscal year 2022:  
Total: 22 DVT: 11 PE: 11

Lack of additional action for patients refusing Sequential Compression Devices (SCDs):

- Medical Surgical (4MS):  
FY 21/22 17% refused (14/82 audited)
- Post Critical Care (PCU):  
FY 21 52% refused (15/29 audited)

## Actions Taken

**END** educational model for Nurses:

Educate the Patient

Notify provider of patient refusal

Document SCD use & provider notification of refusal

- Provider education; engagement with Physical and Occupational Therapists
- Relocation of SCD pumps/tubing in rooms
- Interactive patient education materials

# Working to END Clots:

## A Quality Improvement Project to Prevent VTE

Quality Management, CHI Health Mercy Council Bluffs



## Analysis

Appropriate prophylaxis ordered for Moderate, High, & Highest Risk:

Mechanical: 94% (n=198)

Pharmacological: 92% (n=185)

- Patient refusals:

PCU: Downward trend

4MS: Refusals remained below target

- Pre-intervention VTE** (Nov 21-June 22)

DVT: 8 PE: 8

**Post-intervention VTE** (Nov 22-June 23)

DVT: 3 PE: 3

- Provider notification of refusals remains an opportunity:

4MS: 71% (12/17 refusals)

PCU: 49% (17/35 refusals)

- A small number of patients will agree to wear SCDs with education

- Relocating pumps and nurse education effective strategies for improvement

## Metrics

**Process:**

Audit: Provider prophylaxis orders

Audit: SCD status (refusal, documentation of provider notification)

Case analysis

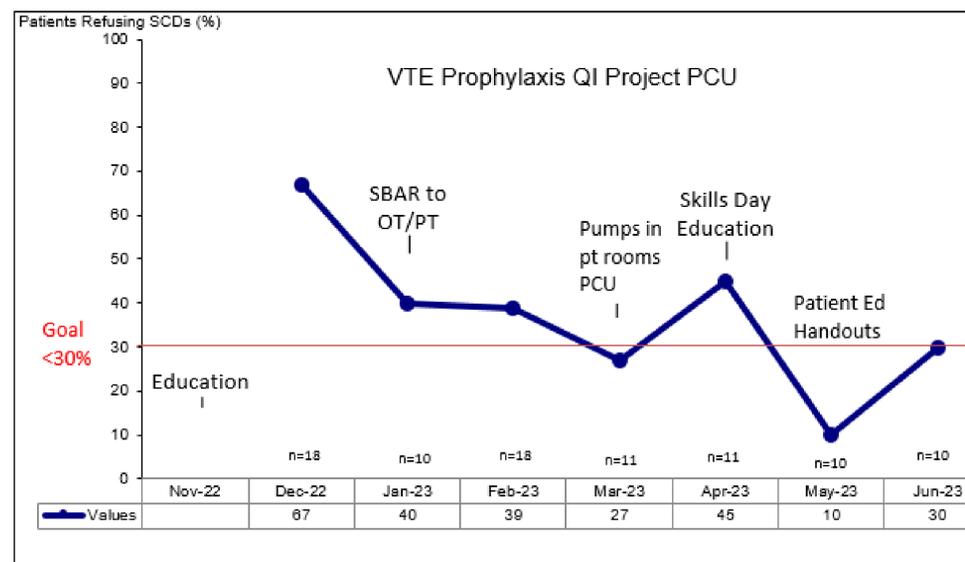
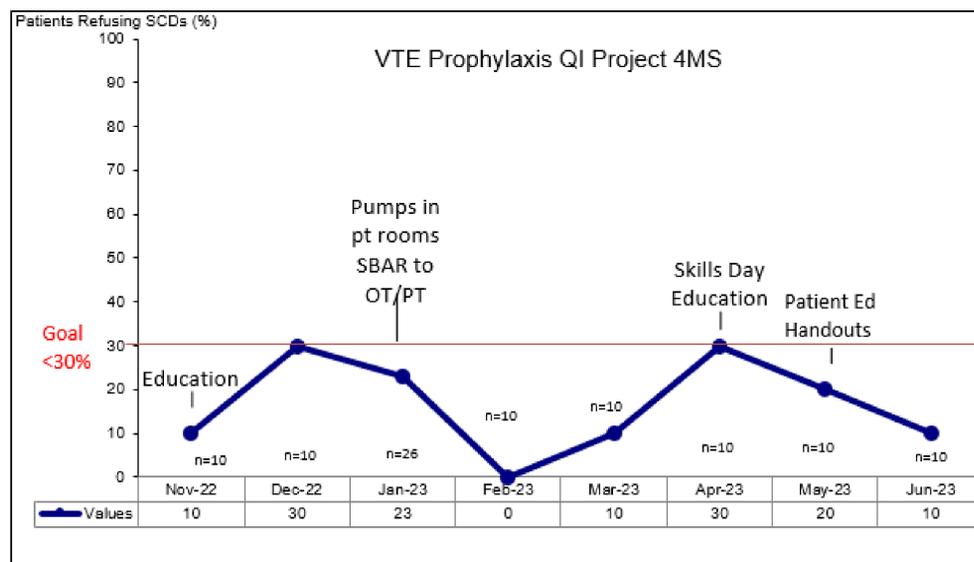
**Outcome:** VTE events pre and post intervention

## Next Steps

Opportunities identified for possible future interventions:

- Interprofessional concurrent case review
- Dashboard
- Risk level reassessment when transferring to a higher level of care

## SEQUENTIAL COMPRESSION DEVICE (SCD)



**Why?**

Blood clots are the leading cause for preventable hospital deaths

SCDs reduce risk of blood clots

**Risk Factors**

- Age
- Post surgery
- Obesity
- Immobility

**How to lower risk**

- Wear SCDs when in bed
- Notify nurse/MD if SCD is not working
- Ask the nurse or tech to put your SCDs on

← SCAN