



Early Elective Deliveries

Rhonda Donnelly, RNC-OB

Labor & Delivery Nurse Manager,
CoxHealth, Springfield, Missouri



American Hospital
Association®



HEALTH RESEARCH &
EDUCATIONAL TRUST
In Partnership with AHA



Objectives & About Us



- Top third delivery center in Missouri
- 3300 -3500 annual births – 600 monthly Triage visits
- LDR model with PCU, 3 OR suites
- 30 Private OB's and a Family Practice Residency
- Objective: To eliminate 37-39 week elective inductions with a baseline of 19%



Tests & What we Learned

- Moving from scheduling “at will” to criteria/evidence based scheduling
 - ACOG recommendations
- OB Section Governance Structure
 - Physician led Multidisciplinary governance
 - OB Chief/Perinatologist must approve any scheduled elective case prior to 39 weeks
- Voluntary versus Hard Stop
 - Started with voluntary reduction
- Consequence Structure



Barriers & How we Resolved

- Games We Play
 - Physician ‘back-door’ inductions
 - 38.6 weeks is not 39 weeks
- Tracking and Follow Through
 - Tracking system outside of the L&D unit
 - Follow-up from Physician leadership not nursing
- Champions/Support
 - Respected Physician Leadership is Key to success
 - Support from Administration vital



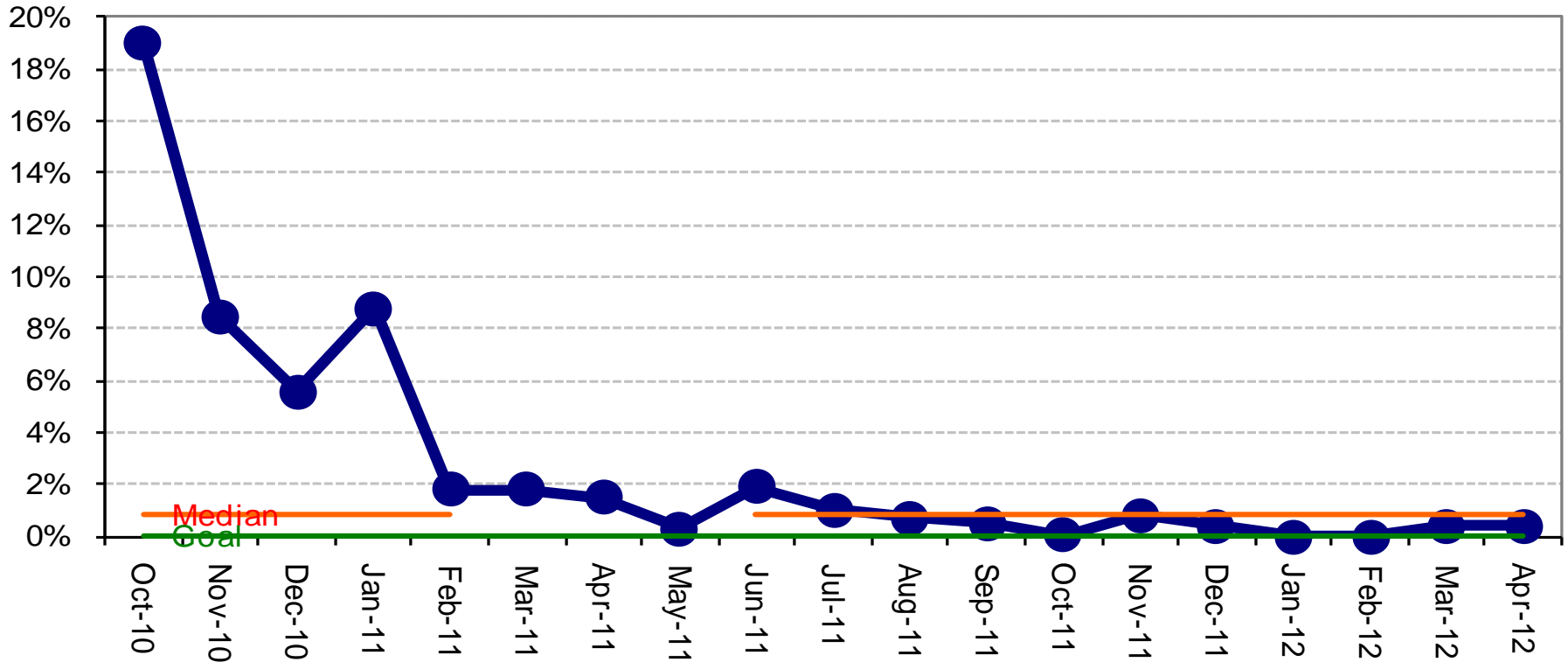
Measures – What & How

- Number of 37-39 week elective deliveries tracked
- OB Chair follow up with individual physicians
 - Letter to physician if elective induction done
 - Stronger letter if admission to NICU
 - Peer Review board if more than 3
- Monthly tracking of NICU admissions of elective deliveries



Measures – What & How

Elective Inductions Prior to 39 Weeks





Advice for others

- Hard Stop
 - Voluntary reduction does not work
- Defined Expectations
 - Clear cut criteria for medical indications – ‘Maternal intolerance of pregnancy’ is *not* approved indication
- Empower and support staff
 - They have the power to say no and will be supported
- Collect data from the beginning
 - Difficult to go back and obtain needed data
- Consequence for Offenders
 - Peer review process
- Champion Physician Structure
 - Strong respected leadership



Wrap Up & Next Steps

- Not at zero consistently – OB Chief has made a few exceptions – Dad in Iraq, Mother dying...
- Questions?
- Next Tests of Change (TOC)
 - Conversion to the AWHONN staffing guidelines
 - Hardwiring Team STEPPS

Rhonda.Donnely@CoxHealth.com

417-269-5945