

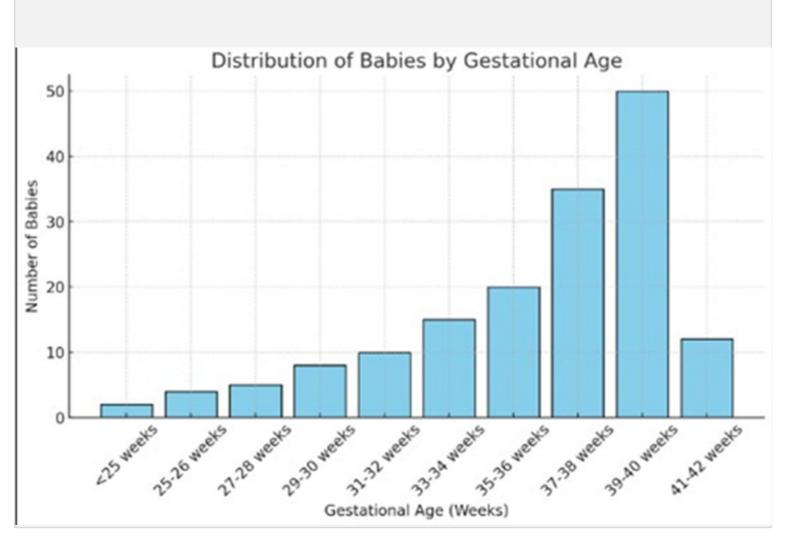
# Enhancing Thermoregulation: A Quality Improvement Initiative in the Neonatal Unit of St Helier Hospital.

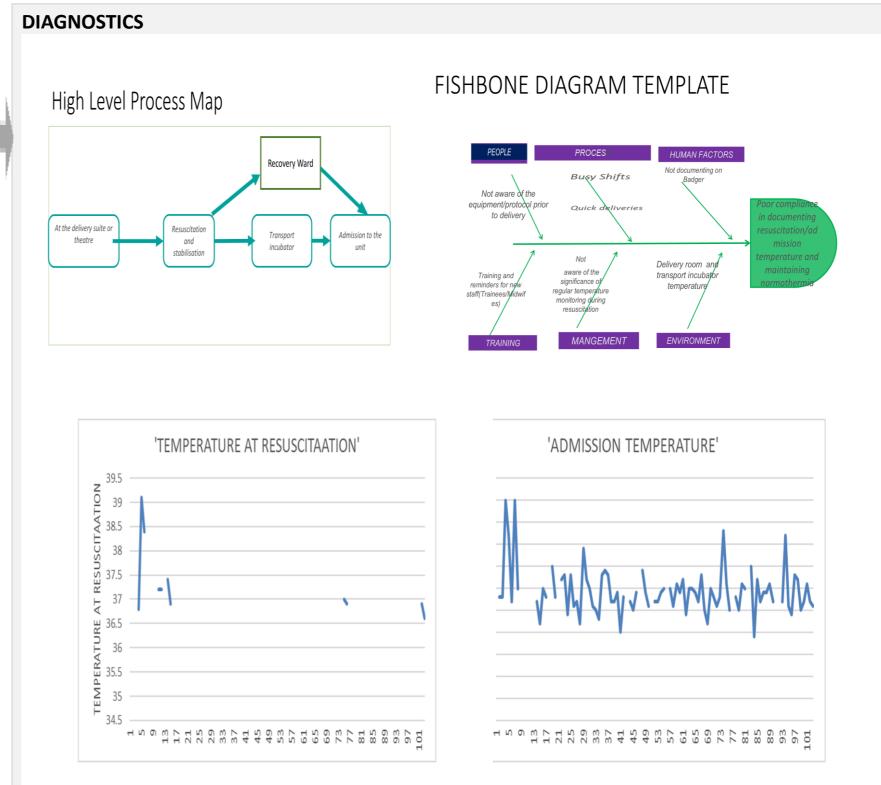
Chineze Okorowo<sup>1</sup>, Anuluwapo Adeya<sup>2</sup>, Victoria Hakewill<sup>3</sup> Supervisor: Salim Yasin<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Specialty Registrar, <sup>2</sup>Clinical Fellow, <sup>3</sup> Senior Sister, <sup>4</sup>Consultant Neonatologist St Helier Hospital

#### **BACKGROUND AND EVIDENCE:**

- •The NNAP sets a standard that the composite measure of timeliness and normal temperature should be met for at least 90% of babies.
- •Admission temperature of newly born non-asphyxiated infants is a strong predictor of mortality and morbidity at all gestations.





#### AIM

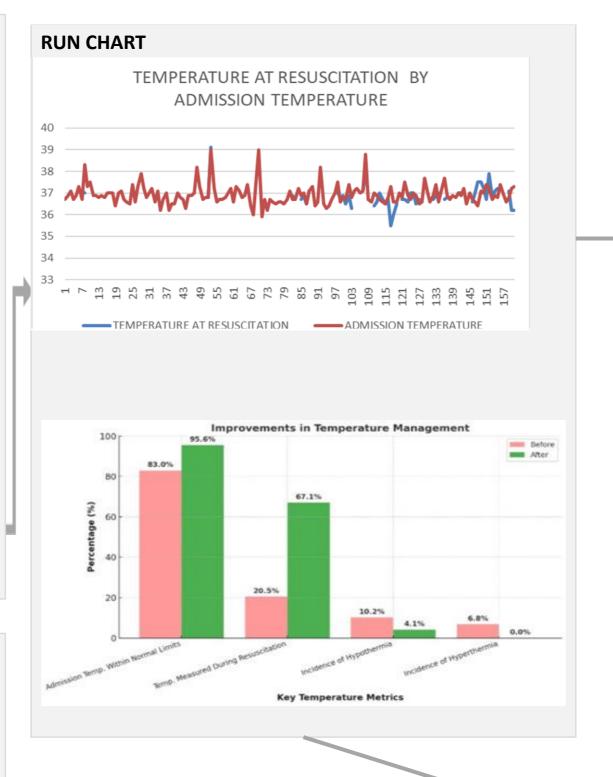
- All babies delivered and admitted to the St Helier Neonatal unit would have temperatures within normal limits (36.5-37.5).
- All babies delivered and admitted to the St Helier neonatal unit would have the resuscitation and admission temperature documented.

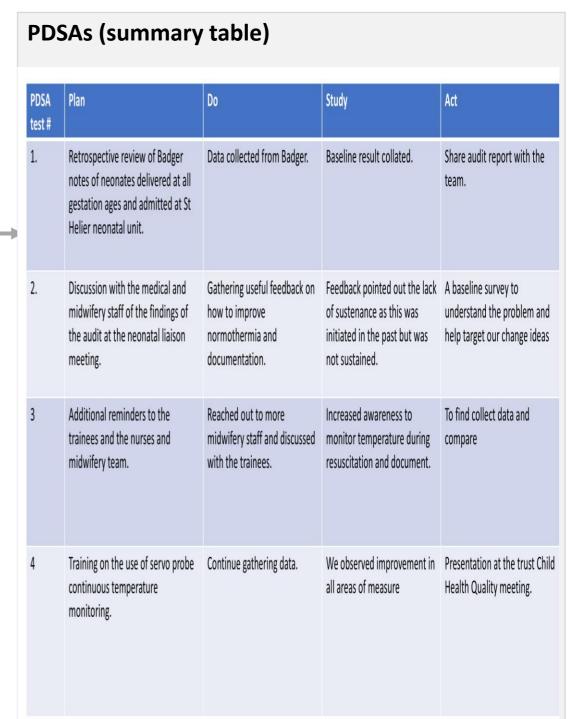
## **MEASURES**

- Number of neonates who have their admission temperature and resuscitation temperature measured and documented.
- Number of neonates who have temperatures within normal limits.

## **CHANGE IDEAS**

- In line with the National Neonatal Audit Program (NNAP) which assesses whether babies admitted to neonatal units receive consistent high-quality care and identifies areas for improvement.
- We implemented the following change ideas:
- Procurement of servo-control temperature probes and training on its use.
- Awareness emails and reminders given the above and the need to implement continuous temperature monitoring, for babies less than 32 weeks and those requiring prolonged resuscitation.
- Discussions and reminders at unit and perinatal meetings.
- Updated the thermoregulation guideline and include a flow chart for thermoregulation in work areas.





## **Learning and Reflection**

- •There was an improvement in maintaining normothermia in the admission temperature and documenting the resuscitation temperatures.
- •It was of interest to note that the babies with a temperature less than 36.5 after the change ideas were introduced were term babies who did not require resuscitation: this underpins the importance of continuing measures to maintain normothermia even after the immediate delivery period.
- •Teamwork was pivotal in achieving this positive change.

# References

National Neonatal Audit Program. Online @ https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/work-we-do/clinical-audits/nnap/healthcare-improvement-strategy

British Association of Perinatal Medicine QI Tool kit accessed online @ https://www.bapm.org/pages/104-qi-toolkits