

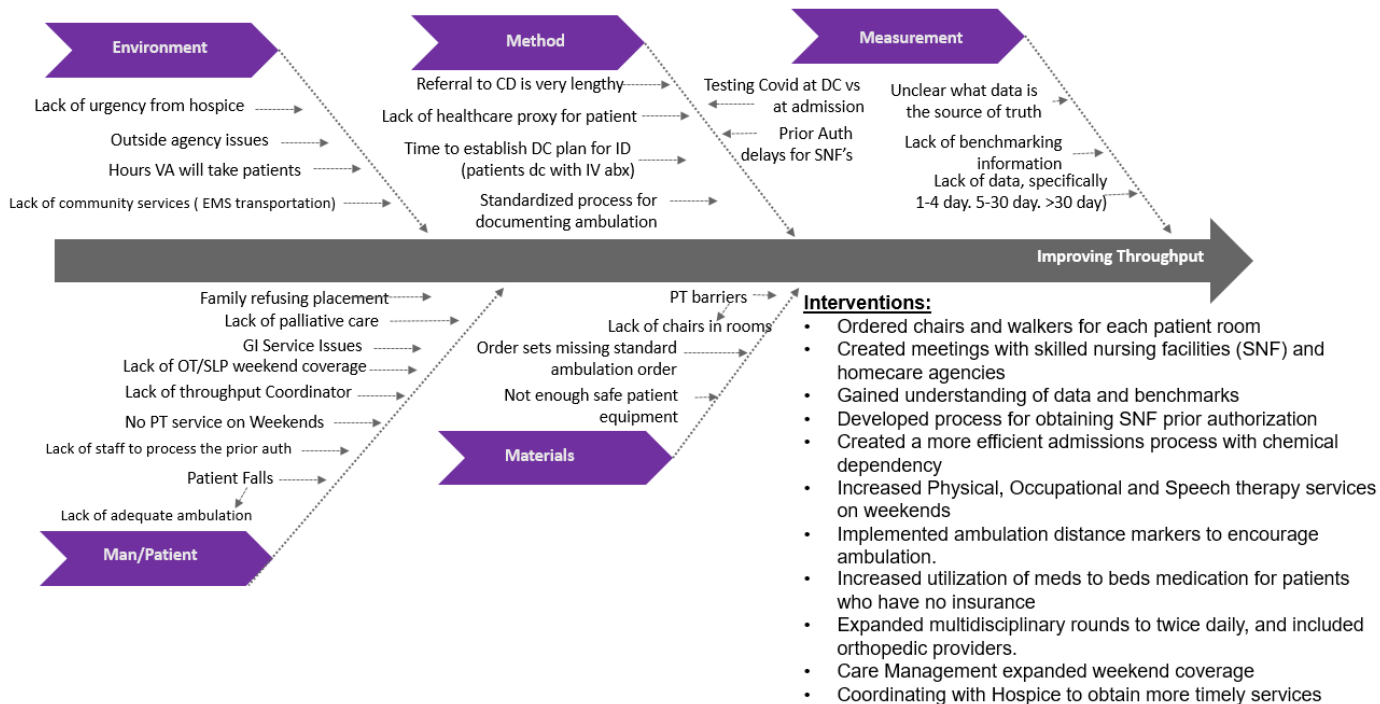
A Rural Hospitals Journey to Improving Length of Stay

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The Problem

Since 2023 UMMC identified the need to improve our acute care length of stay. In quarter 1, 2022, our average quarterly length of stay was 5.3 days. To tackle this complex challenge we developed a multidisciplinary team, using lean methodologies we identified gaps and implemented several interventions.

Lean Tools- Fishbone Diagram



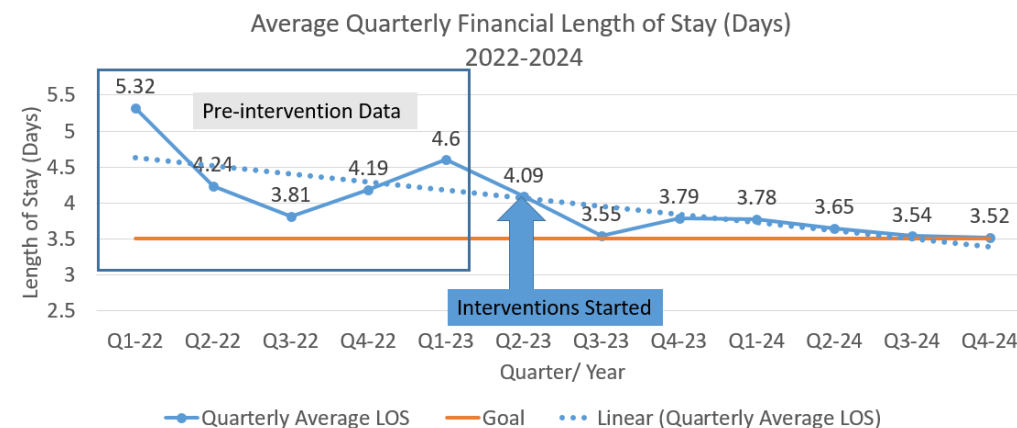
Lessons Learned

Implementation:

- Utilized a holistic approach to process improvement
- Lean tools: fishbone diagram
- Interventions were prioritized based on available resources

Results/Discussion

As of Q4-24, our quarterly average length of stay decreased from 5.3 days in Q1-22 to 3.52 days in Q4-24.



Our annual length of stay decreased from 4.39 in 2022 to 3.63 in 2024 which equates to a total of **\$962,846** in RN labor cost avoidance over 2 years.

Improving length of stay is essential for enhancing patient care, optimizing resource utilization, controlling costs and improving overall hospital care and efficiencies.