



Nurse Initiated X-Ray (NIX) in the Rural ED

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How the issue was identified

- ED and Patient Flow Clinical Redesign diagnostic process in late 2011
- Time delays to Xray for minor injuries was one area identified for improvement

What was the issue?

Time delay to Xray for low acuity extremity injury

- Patients told of discontentment with long wait times and having to return for x-ray next day
- Medical imaging staff were frustrated with accumulation of x-ray at the close of business
- Nurses were frustrated that they could not expedite patient care

The Change Process

- Regular meetings set up with key stakeholders
- An audit undertaken of wait times
- Development of local policy and clear procedural guideline
- Implementation plan developed
- An education program developed

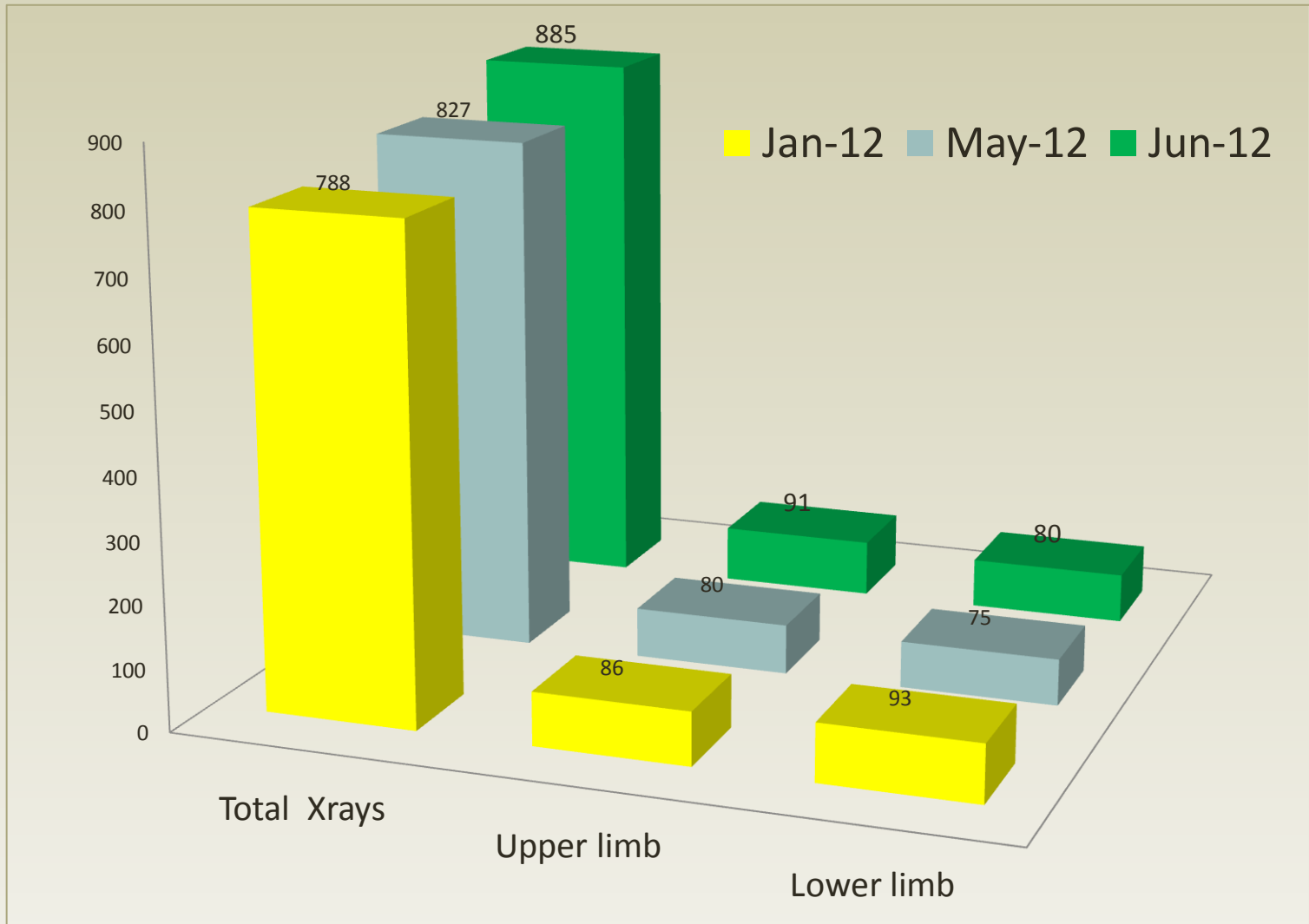
Project

Nurse Initiated Xray project commenced Jan 2012

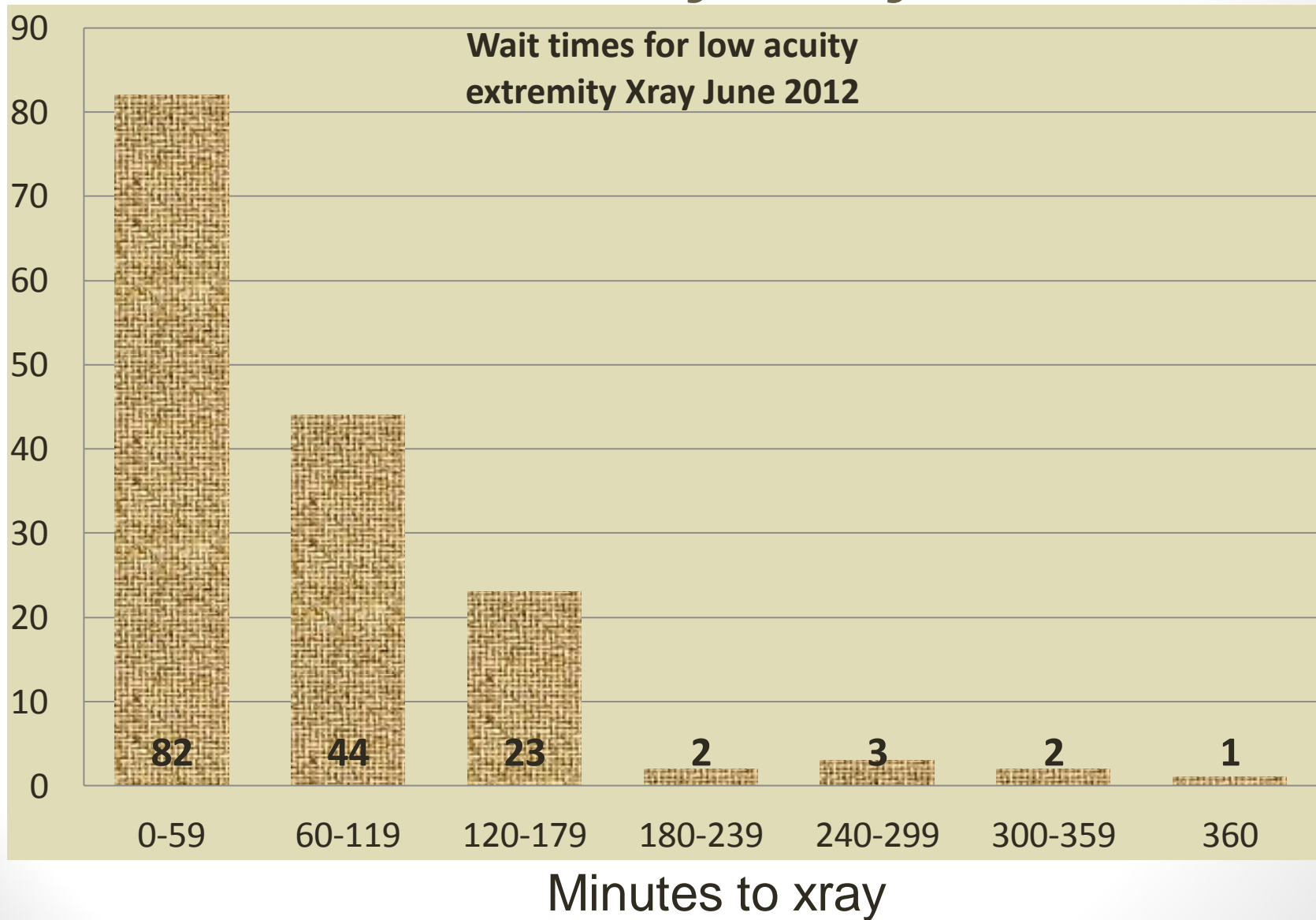
Aim

- to reduce waiting times for patients presenting with isolated limb injuries
- improve patient satisfaction with early access to care
- improve staff satisfaction
 - Nurse ability to progress one client group
 - Avoid increase in Xray requests at 4.45pm

Distal Limb Injury Xray Requests



Time to extremity Xray



Radiation Safety Program

GREATER SOUTHERN
AREA HEALTH SERVICE
NSW HEALTH

Policy and Operational Procedure Manual V.2.1 (09.03.2009)

Appendix 2b - Medical Imaging Request Form Procedure

- Nurse generated referrals are not an accepted practice at any hospital within GSAHS except by a Nurse Practitioner within their designated area of expertise.

1st stage of trial

- Initial education was initially rolled out to senior ED nursing staff
- The NIX process then commenced
 - The NIX RNs recorded Xrays they ordered
 - Medical imaging staff reviewed each order

Consumer participation

- Patients at triage were informed of the project and verbal consent obtained for the process to continue
- Alternatively they were given the option to wait for a medical officer review



Results so far

- Evaluation
- Audit Dec 2012 / Jan 2013
 - NIX ordered 18 x-rays, 9 were fractured
 - Additional 8 extremity injuries NIX assessed – no Xray required
- Time to Xray has been significantly reduced
- No-one has declined the Nurse Initiated Xray
- Patient complaints decreased

What is next

- Progressing the implementation of NIX to all Triage RNs
- Progressing a Fast Track model
- Maintaining the multidisciplinary team collaborative processes
- Full evaluation of NIX project
- Extending the project to other sites

Thankyou

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- Jo Dungey LHD CNC Emergency
- Dr Trish Saccasan-Whelan LHD Critical Care Director

