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INTRODUCTION



- Delays in patient discharge can adversely affect hospital efficiency
- Acute care hospitals strive to improve patient flow to ensure optimal patient care and better management

STUDY QUESTION



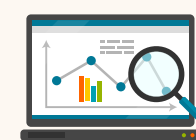
“How could the length of stay (LOS) at a tertiary care center in Riyadh be reduced after identifying the underlying reasons?”

METHODOLOGY



Data collection

- Admission and discharge data for hospitalized patients collected for the period 2016–2018



Data analysis

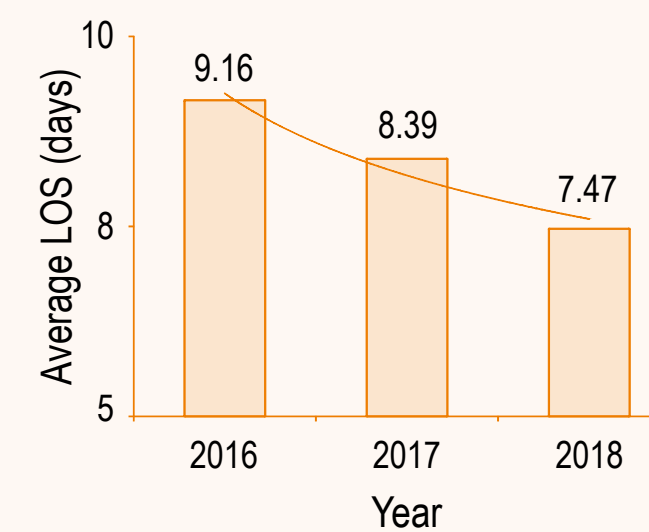
- FOCUS (find, organize, clarify, understand, select)–PDSA (plan, do, study, act) quality improvement method used in 2017 to improve discharge processes



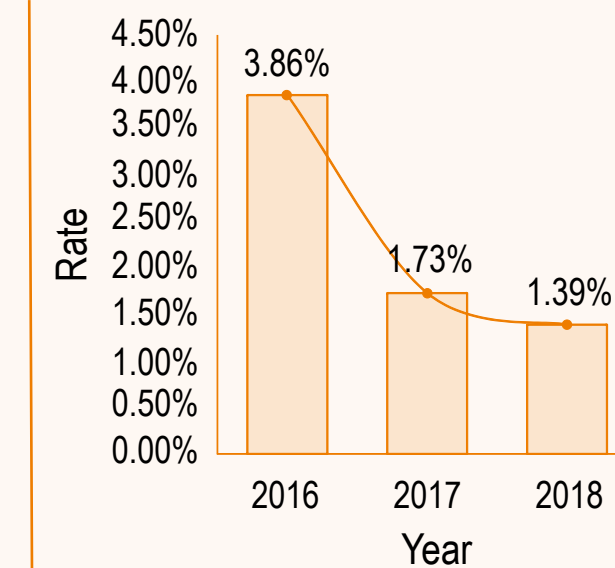
Annual targets

- Specific measurable targets every year

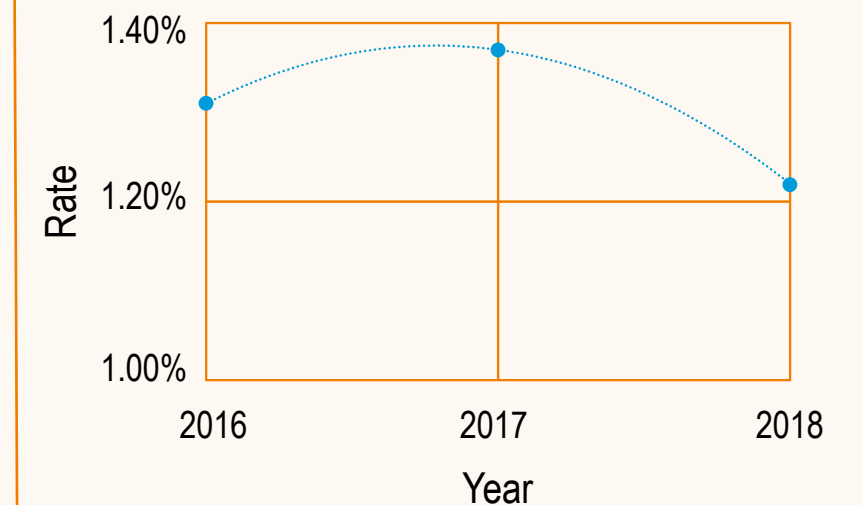
RESULTS



- The mean LOS decreased significantly, from 9.16 to 7.47 days ($p < 0.001$), despite a gradual increase in admissions



- Number of readmissions



- Mortality rates



- An improvement in the process of admission and discharge was observed



CONCLUSION

- The LOS can be reduced by implementing a quality improvement intervention
- A multidisciplinary committee comprising healthcare professionals needs to be involved
- The available hospital resources and services need to be used to optimize the patient discharge process

