

Rationale

The aim of our quality improvement project was to create a **streamlined approach to PPH management** at our trust. The first of which was to establish **quantitative blood loss assessment** in theatre rather than estimated blood loss.

It was based on the successes of the OBS Cymru national quality improvement project. (1)

Methods

We took a collaborative approach to ensure staff were **empowered** and **engaged** in an attempt to achieve a sustained change.

We took professional leave for three days, which allowed us to focus fully on trialling, amending and implementing the new procedure.

Swab count		Dry Weight Calculator	
Medium Swab	4		52
Large Swab	2		80
Small Inco Pad	0		0
Large Inco Pad	1		75
Drape	1		165
Total Wet Weight	1000	Total Dry Weight (g)	
			372

Blood Loss

Blood Loss (mL) =628

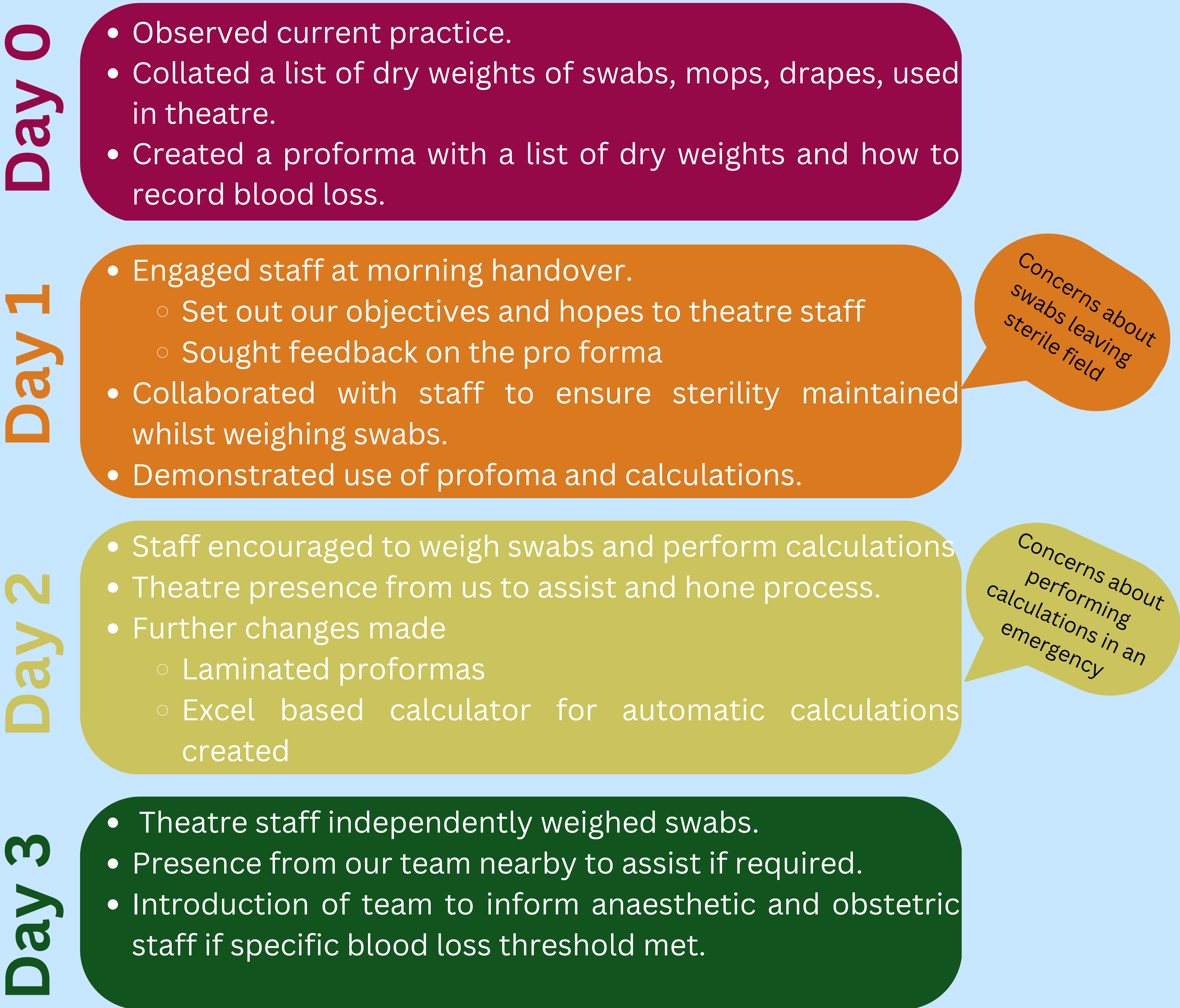
How to use this calculator:

Type in the number of each swab/inco/sheet in the blue boxes

Type in the total wet weight of the swabs in the red box

The total blood in the swabs will appear in the yellow box

Figure 1: Excel based calculator - used on trust computers and on smartphones



Results

There was a **significant improvement** in accuracy of blood loss volumes recorded

Following our intervention, **all cases** now have blood loss recorded either during the case (if heavy intraoperative loss) or after the case (in normal routine procedure).

Discussion

We feel that the success of our quality improvement project in achieving sustained change was down to the **early engagement of staff** who would be responsible for the ongoing implementation of this new practice.

Observed top down approaches to implentation of new procedures have often failed to gain traction due to lack of engagement of staff on the ground.

Discussion with other local centres implementing OBS Cymru approach to PPH management has found difficulties ensuring sustained practice.

Our experience has been easier than others which we attribute to the **collaborative approach** we have taken and exemplifies a case study in effective management and team working.

References

(1) OBS Cymru Quality and Safety Sub Group of Maternity Network Wales, Elinore Macgillivray, All Wales Guideline: Prevention and Management of Postpartum Haemorrhage Version 1.5; NHS Wales