IMPROVING RECOGNIGTION OF DELAYED MOTOR RECOVERY AFTER OBSTETRIC NEURAXIAL ANAESTHESIA

USING A TIMED STRAIGHT-LEG RAISE WRISTBAND

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PRESENTED AT THE OAA MAY 2026

✓ CHECK.
✓ ASSESS.
✓ ESCALATE.
✓ PROTECT.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Delayed motor recovery may be the earliest indicator of rare but serious neurological complications. National guidance recommends anaesthetic review if straight leg raise (SLR) not possible within 4-hours after neuraxial anaesthesia[1].

AIM

To improve awareness, documentation and escalation of delayed motor recovery after obstetric neuraxial anaesthesia.

METHODS

Baseline multidisciplinary staff survey assessed awareness, confidence and current practice.

A timed yellow straight leg raise wristband was introduced to prompt straight leg raise assessment within 4 hours after the last neuraxial dose.

Education provided via posters, and verbal prompts at handover.

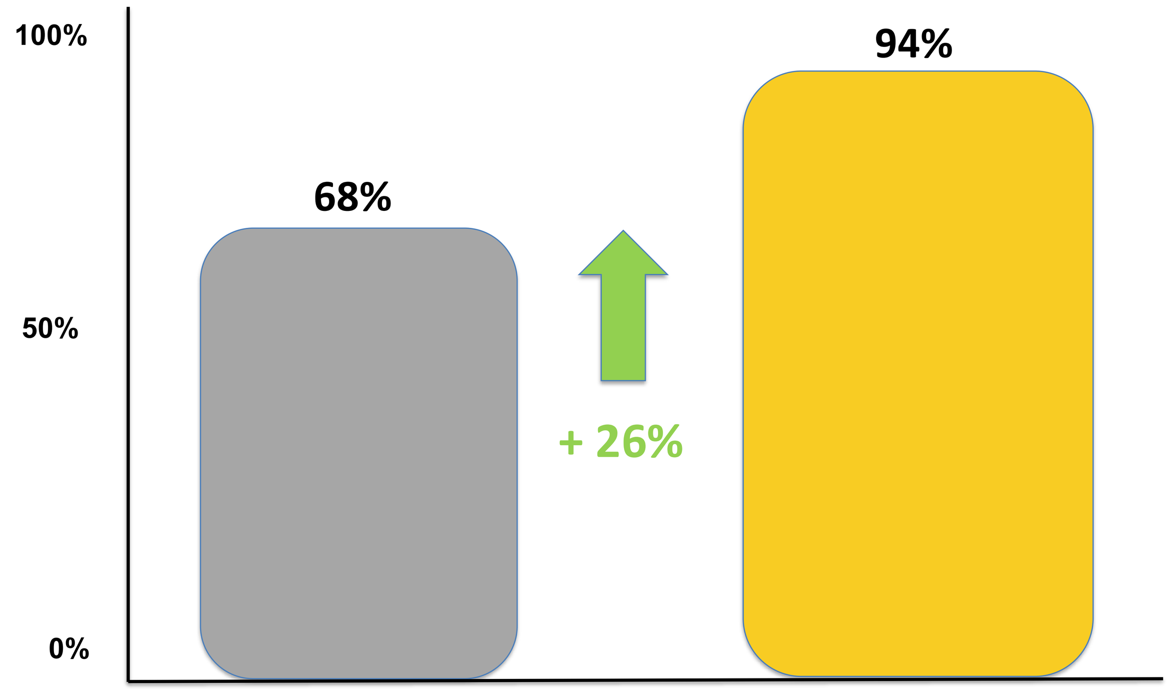
Post intervention survey repeated to assess change.

This was a quality improvement initiative. Initial advice was sought from the Trust Quality Improvement team, who confirmed it did not meet the definition of NHS research, and formal ethics was not required. No patient-identifiable data were collected.

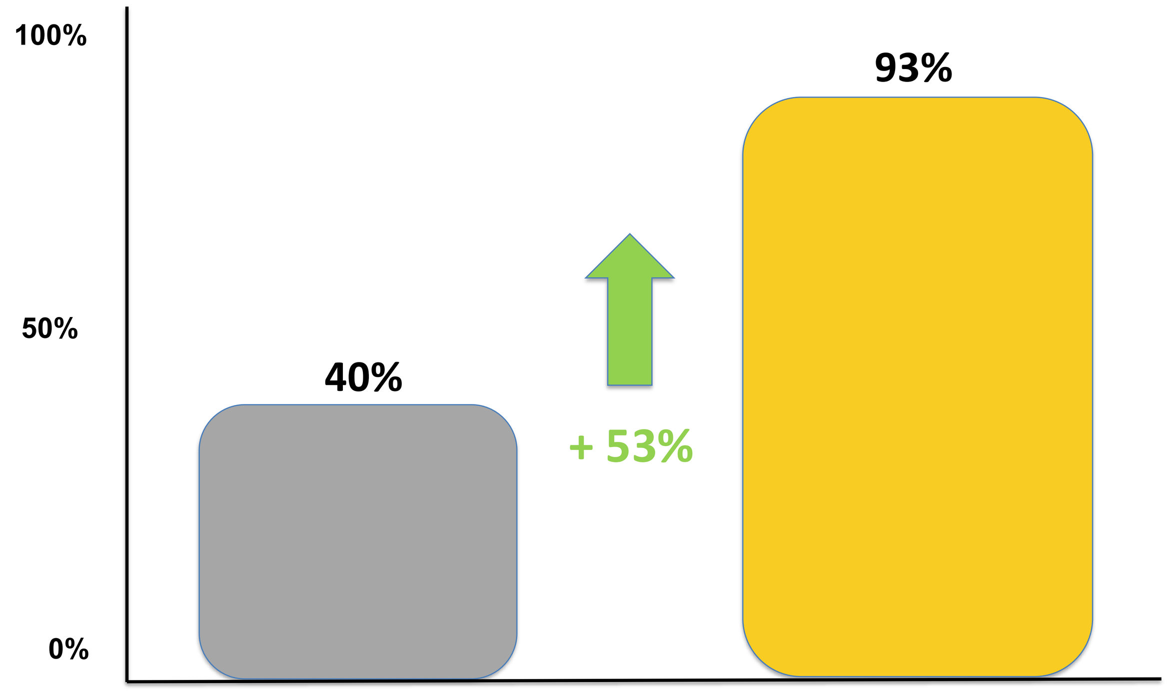
Visible prompt. Timed reminder.
Safer care.

RESULTS

AWARENESS OF 4 HOUR SLR TIMING



CONFIDENCE IN DETECTING DELAYED MOTOR RECOVERY



Improved consistency of documentation

Clearer escalation to anaesthetics team

Simple, acceptable and effective safety prompt

Enhanced multidisciplinary situational awareness

IMPACT

✓ Increased staff awareness of expected SLR recovery timing
✓ Greater confidence in recognising delayed motor recovery
✓ Improved escalation and safer patient care
✓ Low-cost, sustainable, and easily integrated into workflow

CONCLUSION

A timed SLR wristband is a simple, low-cost intervention that improves recognition and escalation of delayed motor recovery after obstetric neuraxial anaesthesia.

We are now working towards embedding this into the WHO surgical safety sign-out to improve sustainability and reliability.

REFERENCES

1. Yentis SM, Lucas DM, Brigante L, et al. Safety guideline: neurological monitoring associated with obstetric neuraxial block 2020. Anaesthesia. 2020;75: 913-919

FUNDING & DECLARATION

No external funding was received for this project. Wristbands were purchased by the author.

IF STRAIGHT-LEG RAISE IS NOT POSSIBLE 4 HOURS AFTER NEURAXIAL ANAESTHESIA – ESCALATE TO ANAESTHETICS → CHECK. ASSESS. ESCALATE. PROTECT.