

# 'IT'S NOT COOL TO BE COLD': QI Initiative to Decrease Hypothermia in Infants < 29wks

Catherine Lesawich RN NP; Deepak Louis MD; Molly Seshia MD; Ashley Alonius RN BN; Lisa Murray RN BN; Erin Kane RN BN; Nicole Kjartanson RN BN



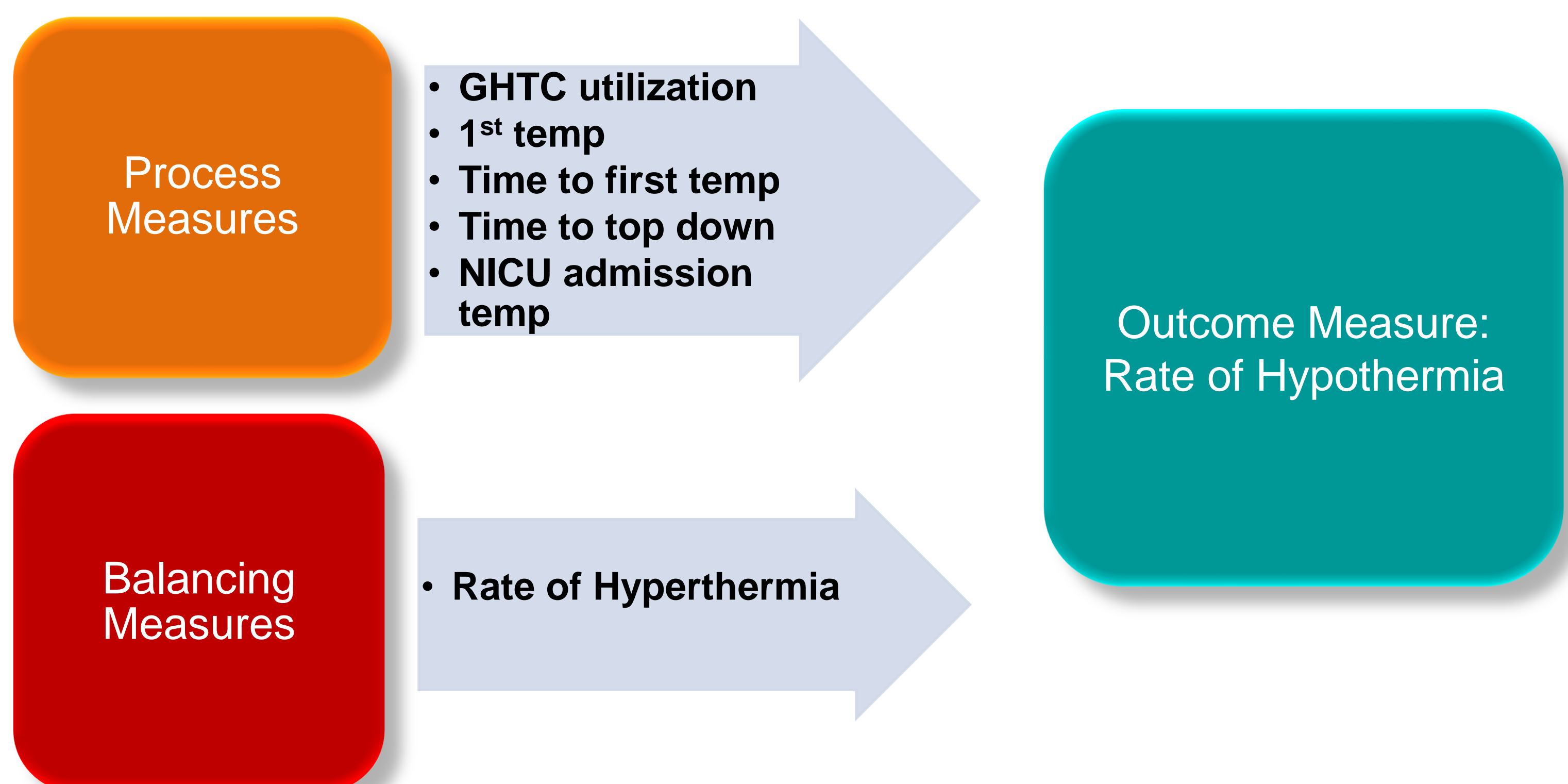
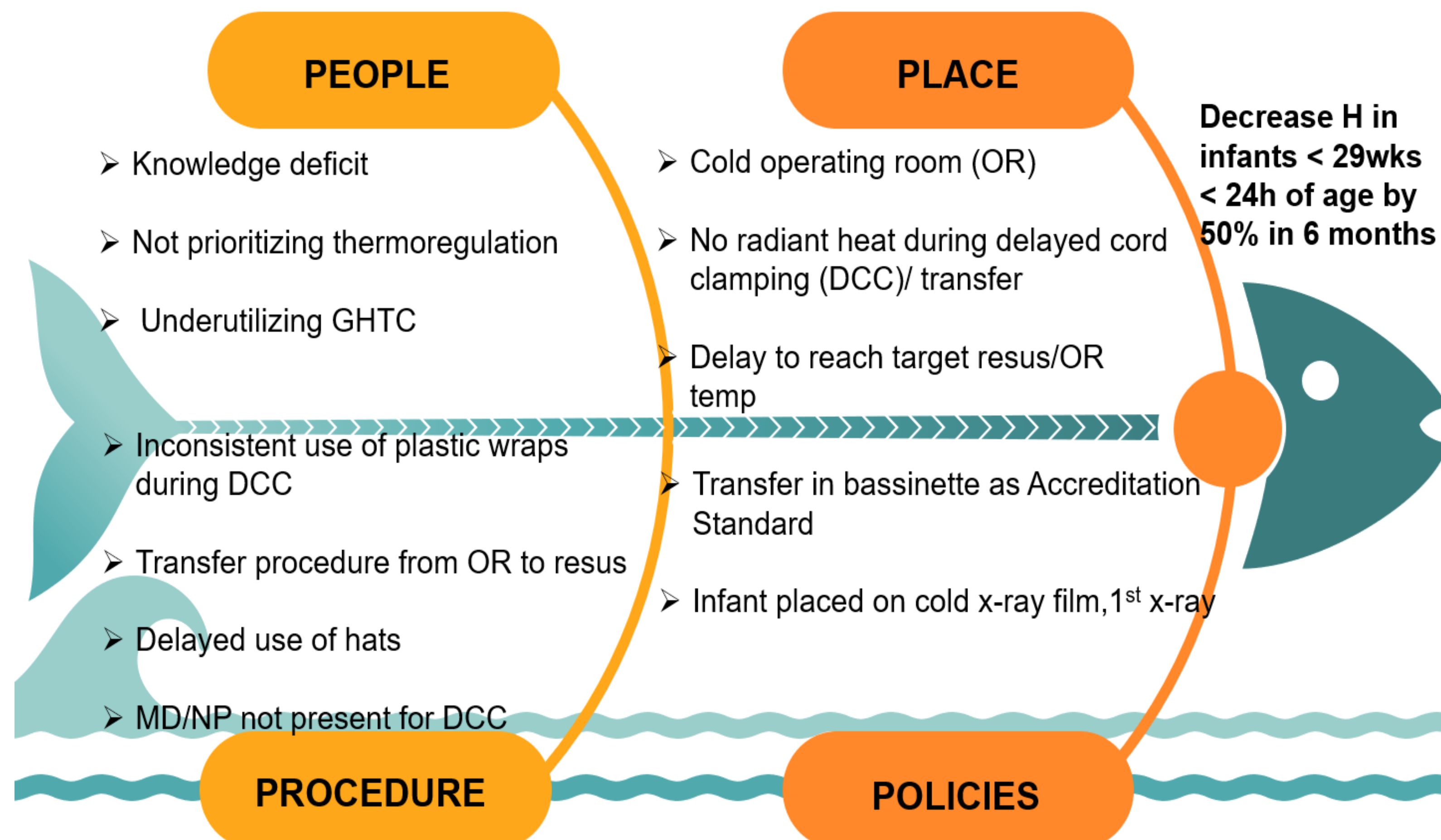
## BACKGROUND

- Preterm infants are at ↑ risk of hypothermia (H)
- Risk ↑ with ↓ gestational age (GA)
- Existing measures to mitigate H: plastic wraps, hats, thermal mattress, ↑ resuscitation room (resus) temp immediately prior to delivery, and utilizing Golden Hour Transitional Checklist (GHTC)
- Audit of 31 infants born < 29wks, in first 24h (2023):
  - 2 excluded - death prior to temp taken
  - **65% H (< 36.5°C)**
  - **24% severe H (< 35.9°C and/or unregistrable)**

## AIM

Decrease H in infants < 29wks < 24h of age by 50% in 6 months

## FISHBONE DIAGRAM

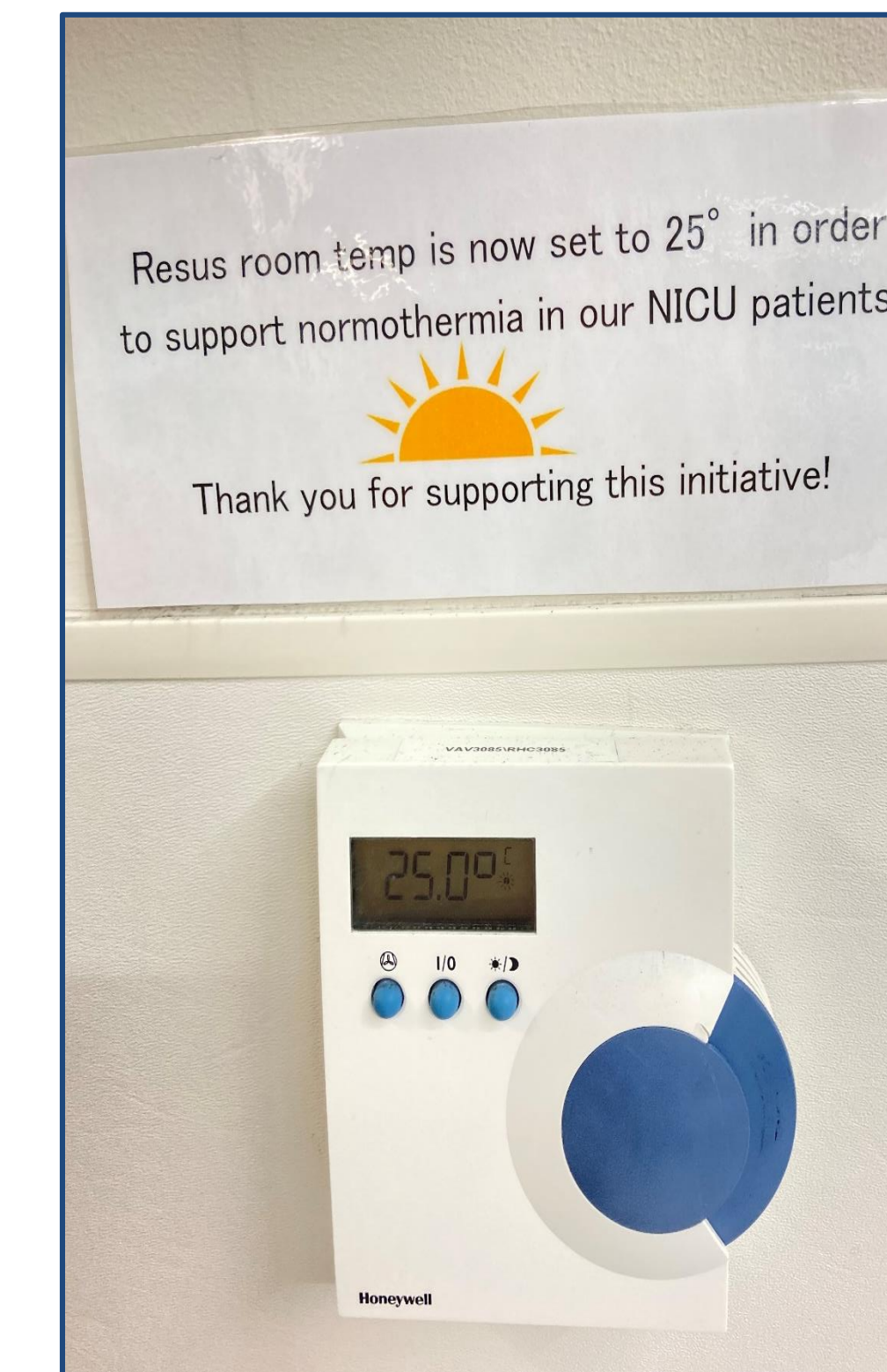


## CHANGE PLAN

- PEOPLE**
  - ❖ Staff huddles on H prevention
  - ❖ < 29wks case reviews
- PROCEDURE**
  - ❖ Thermal plastic hats
  - ❖ MD/NP staff present during DCC
- PLACE**
  - ❖ Set DR/OR/resus temps
  - ❖ Signage restricting resus door opening
- POLICIES**
  - ❖ On thermal mattress for x-rays
  - ❖ Transfer set-up from DR to resus



Infant transfer set-up

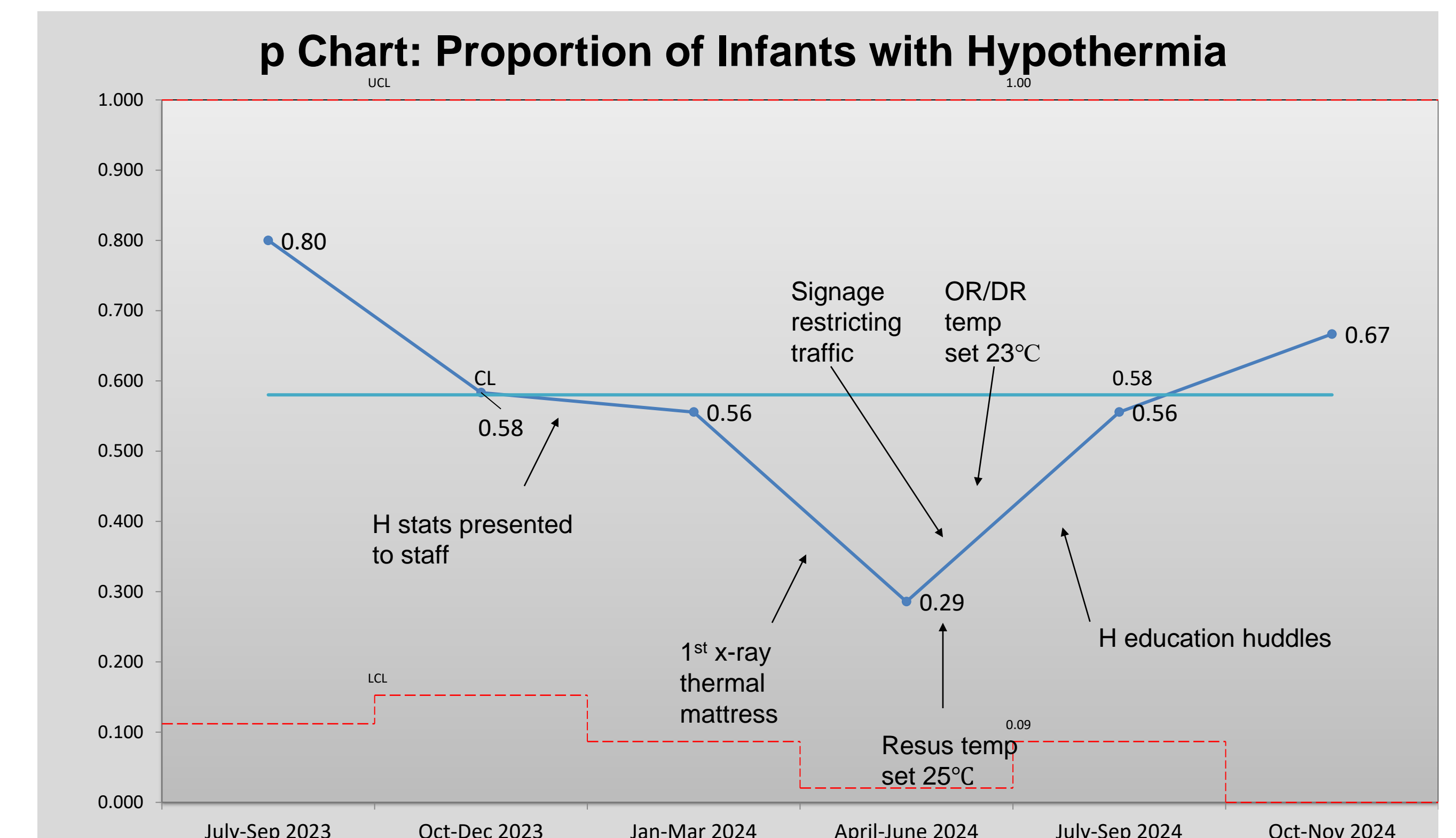
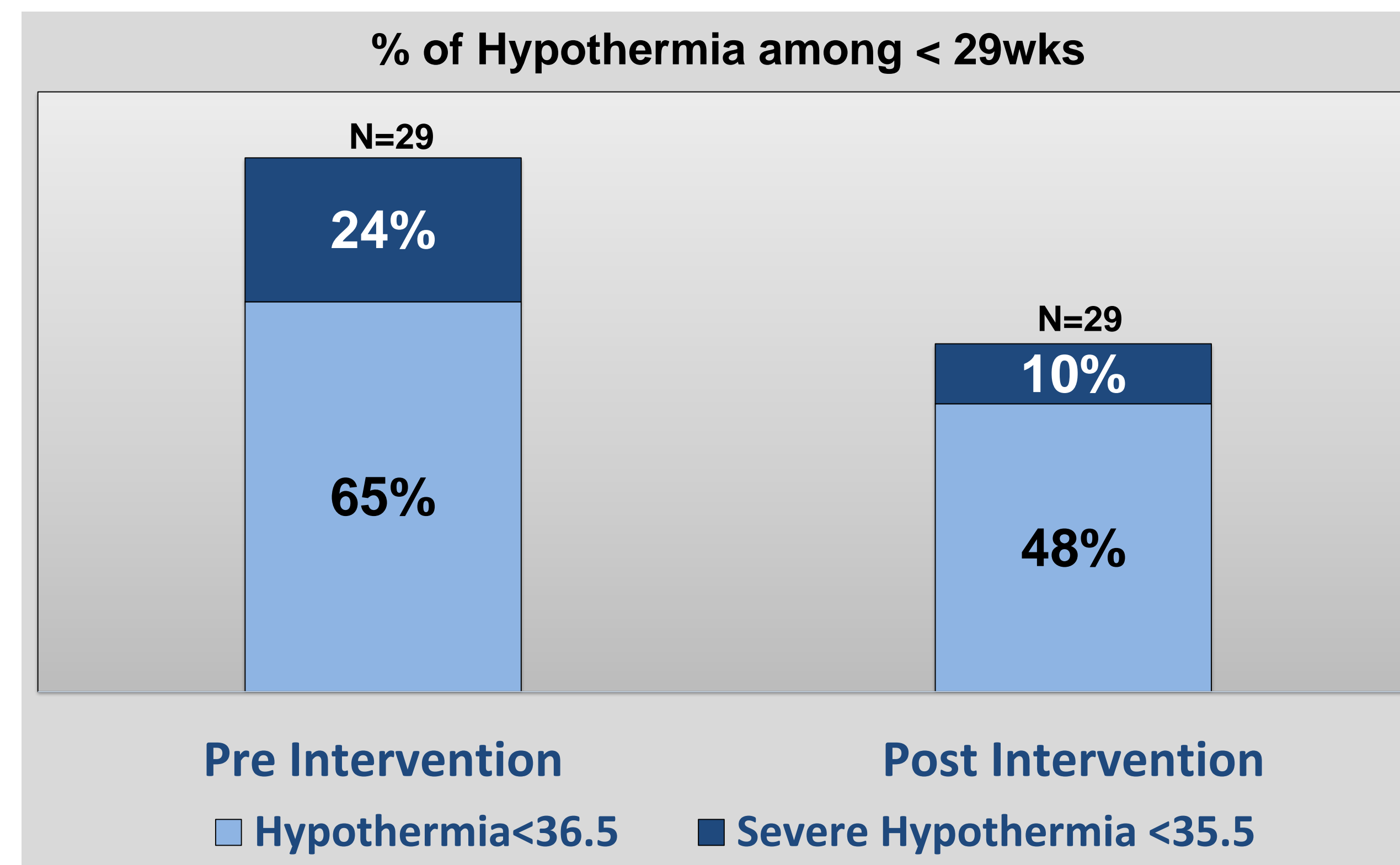


Resus temp



Resus door

## RESULTS



## LESSONS LEARNED

- 50% ↓ of severe H; did not reach goal of overall ↓ H by 50%
- 0% hyperthermia
- 79% usage of GHTC
  - 3 of 4 infants experienced H when GHTC not used
- 3h average time to incubator top down/humidity initiation

## PLAN

- Continue temperature audits
- Start daily audits of resus and OR temperature
- Develop strategies to ↓ time to incubator top down/humidity initiation
- Continue education on H prevention

