



# Reducing Turn Around Time In OPD using Six Sigma approach

Col Surender Pawan Kumar

# Preview

- Introduction
- Research question
- Aim
- Objectives
- Methodology
  - ✓ Brief
  - ✓ Duration
  - DMAIC
    - ☐ Define – Process map
    - ☐ Measure – Current process capability
    - ☐ Analysis – Perceived causes
    - ☐ Improve - Probable solutions and interventions
    - ☐ Control – Determine the impact and strive for further improvement
- Limitations
- Conclusion

# Introduction



## For Patients

- Most frustrating time



## For Hospital

- Acts as barrier to efficient patient flow
- OPD – Influences patient's impression of the hospital

# Research Questions

What is the TAT  
in Outpatient  
Department ?



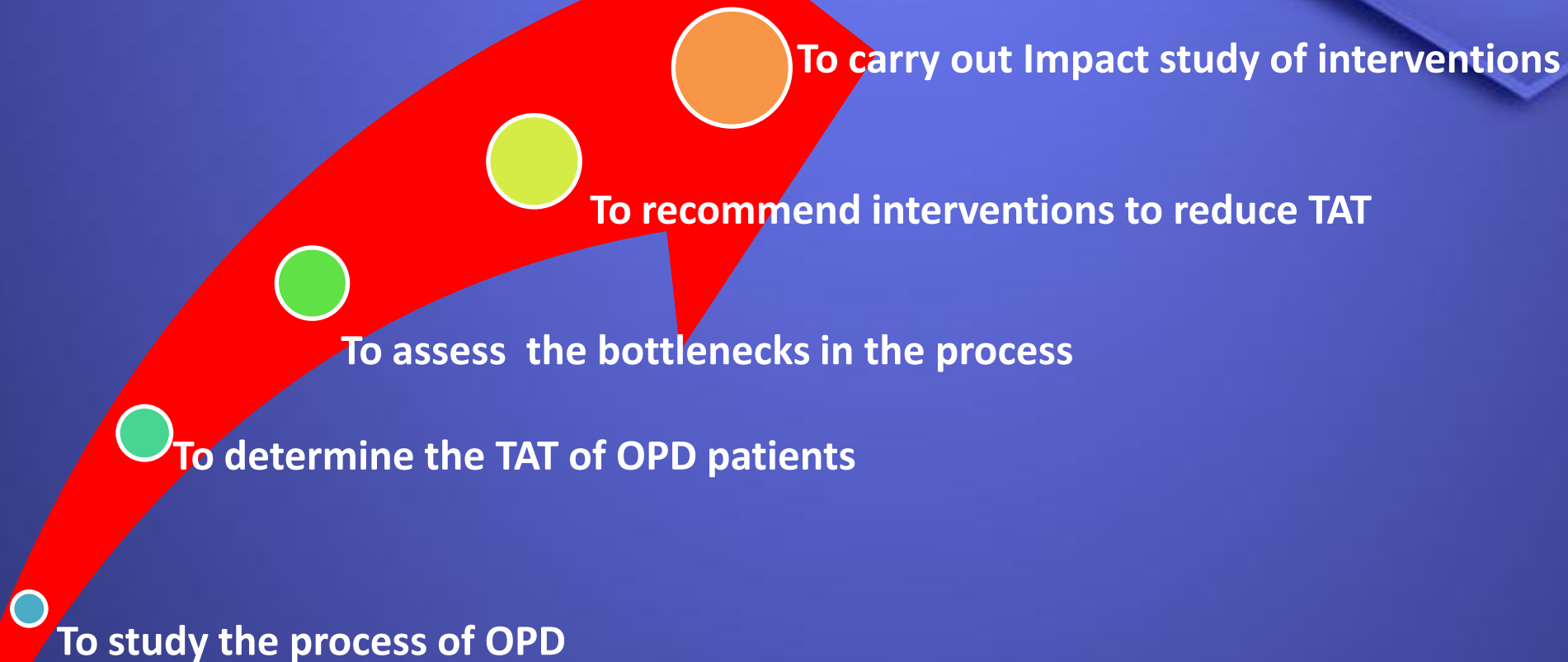
How to reduce  
this TAT ?

# Aim

To reduce the TAT of OPD Patients



# Objectives



# Methodology

Duration – 8 Feb to 07 May 16

Study type

- Analytical, Applied, Quantitative & Empirical

Study Design

- OPD, Eternal Hospital

Data collection method

- Time motion study

Type of data

- Primary

Sample size

- 10% of OPD cases

Sampling Technique

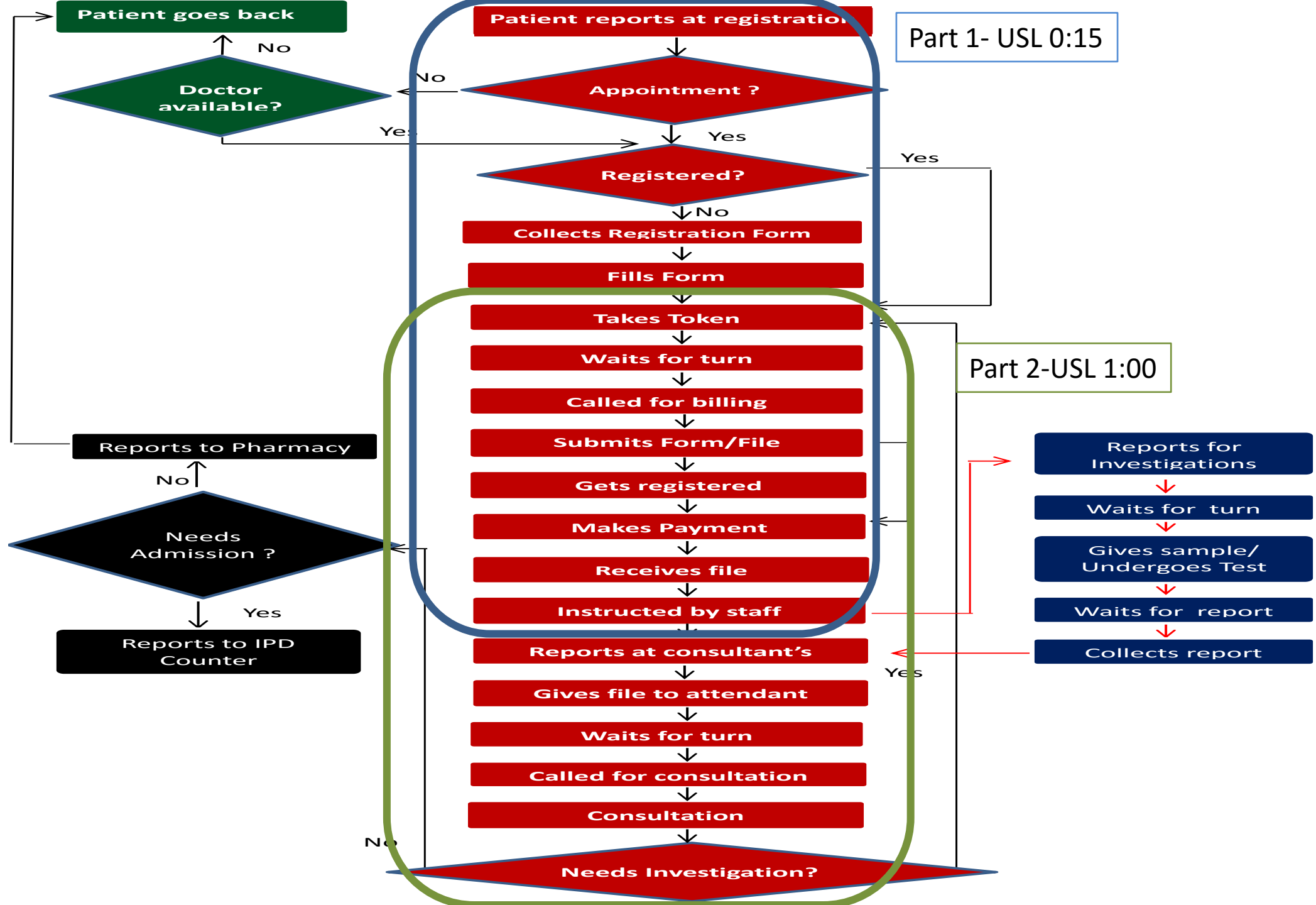
- Systematic Sampling

## Analysis Tools Used

- Observation study
- Time motion study
- Fish Bone Diagram
- Modified FMEA
- Brainstorming
- MS Excel



PROCESS FLOW CHART



# Measure



# Part 1 Check Sheets

| Token collection time (A) | Called for billing time (B) | Time taken (B – A) | Billing time (C) | Time taken (C – B) | File handover time (D) | Time taken (D – C) | Total time taken (D – A) |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 09:35                     | 09:55                       | 00:20 min          | 09:57            | 00:02 min          | 09:57                  | 00:00 min          | 00:22 min                |
| 10:14                     | 10:21                       | 00:07 min          | 10:24            | 00:03 min          | 10:25                  | 00:01 min          | 00:11 min                |
| 11:27                     | 12:05                       | 00:38 min          | 12:09            | 00:04 min          | 12:09                  | 00:00 min          | 00:42 min                |

## Part 1

| UHID  | 1 <sup>st</sup> billing time (A) | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Billing time (B) | Time taken (B – A) |
|-------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 24293 | 08:41                            | 09:45                            | 01h 04 min         |
| 34482 | 10:55                            | 12:16                            | 01h 21 min         |
| 32987 | 11:43                            | 13:09                            | 01h 26 min         |

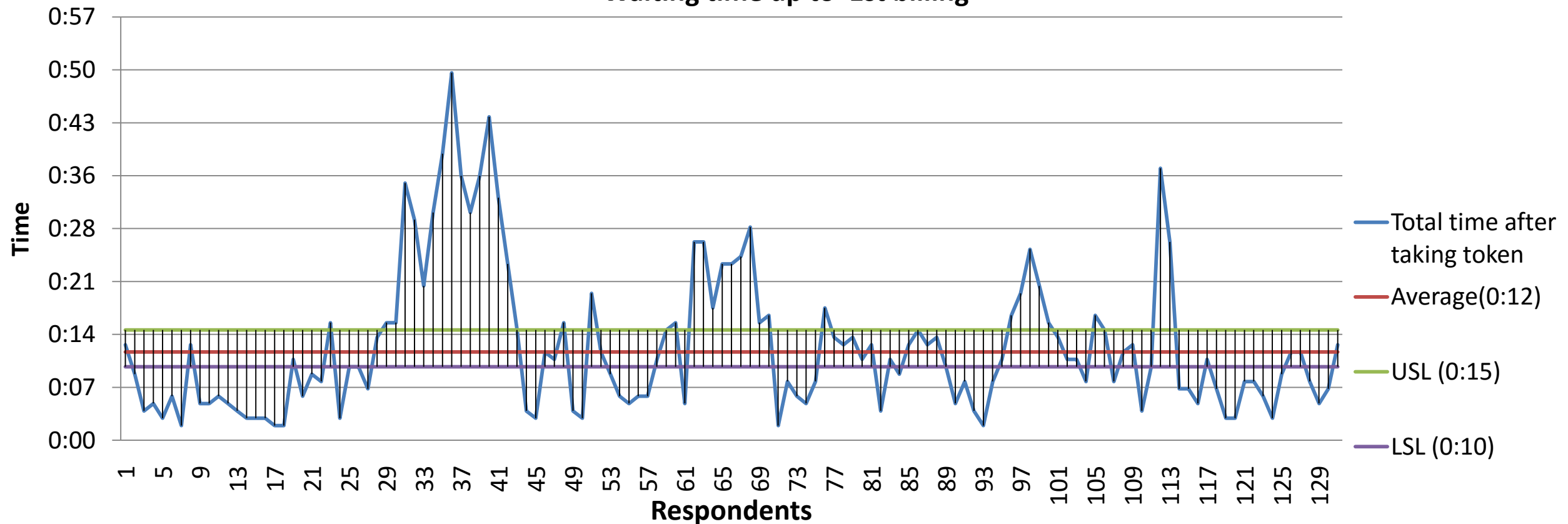
### Note-

- Only those patients whose consultation as well as investigations were conducted on same day were included.
- Following patients were not included :
  - Patients using health packages.
  - Patients not advised any investigation.
  - Patients who comes for investigations only
  - IPD Patients
- Part 3** of the waiting time was covered under a separate study

# Sampling & Results : Part 1

|        | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Total |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|-------|
| OPD    | 254    | 203     | 188       | 207      | 172    | 252      | 1276  |
| 10%    | 25.4   | 20.3    | 18.8      | 20.7     | 17.2   | 25.2     | 127.6 |
| Sample | 26     | 21      | 19        | 21       | 18     | 26       | 131   |

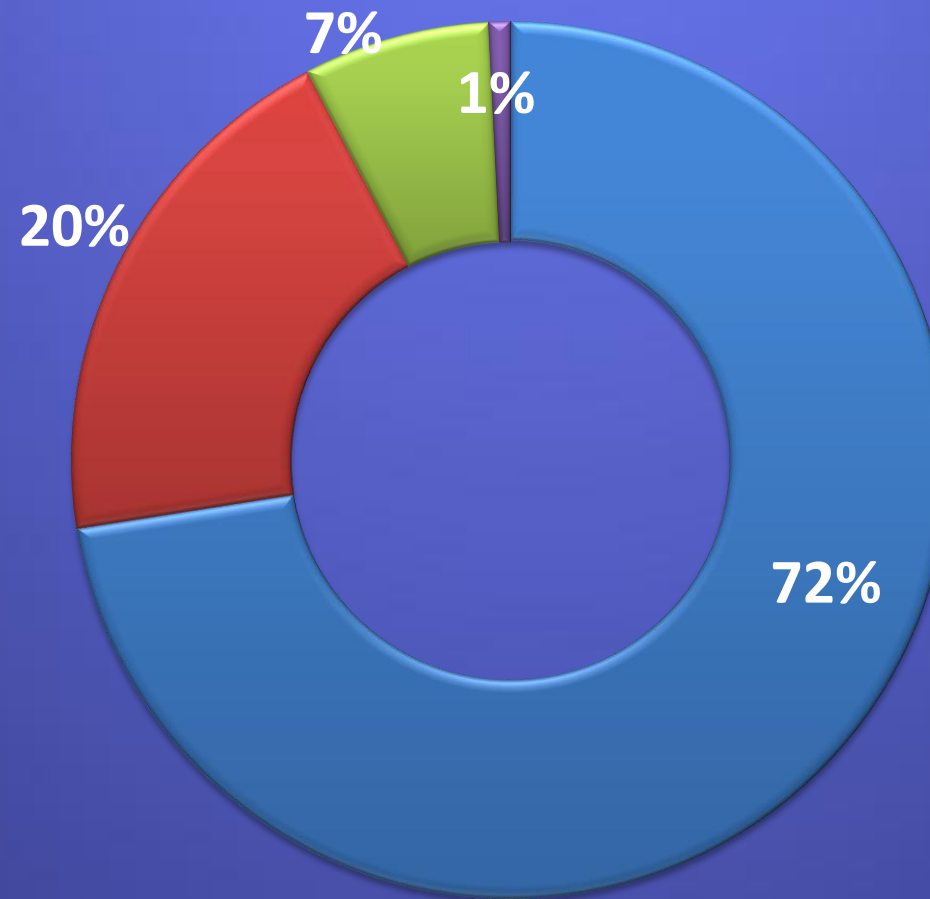
Waiting time up to 1st billing



# Results: Part 1

## Waiting time

■ ≤15 Min ■ 16 - 30 Min ■ 31 - 45 Min ■ > 45 Min

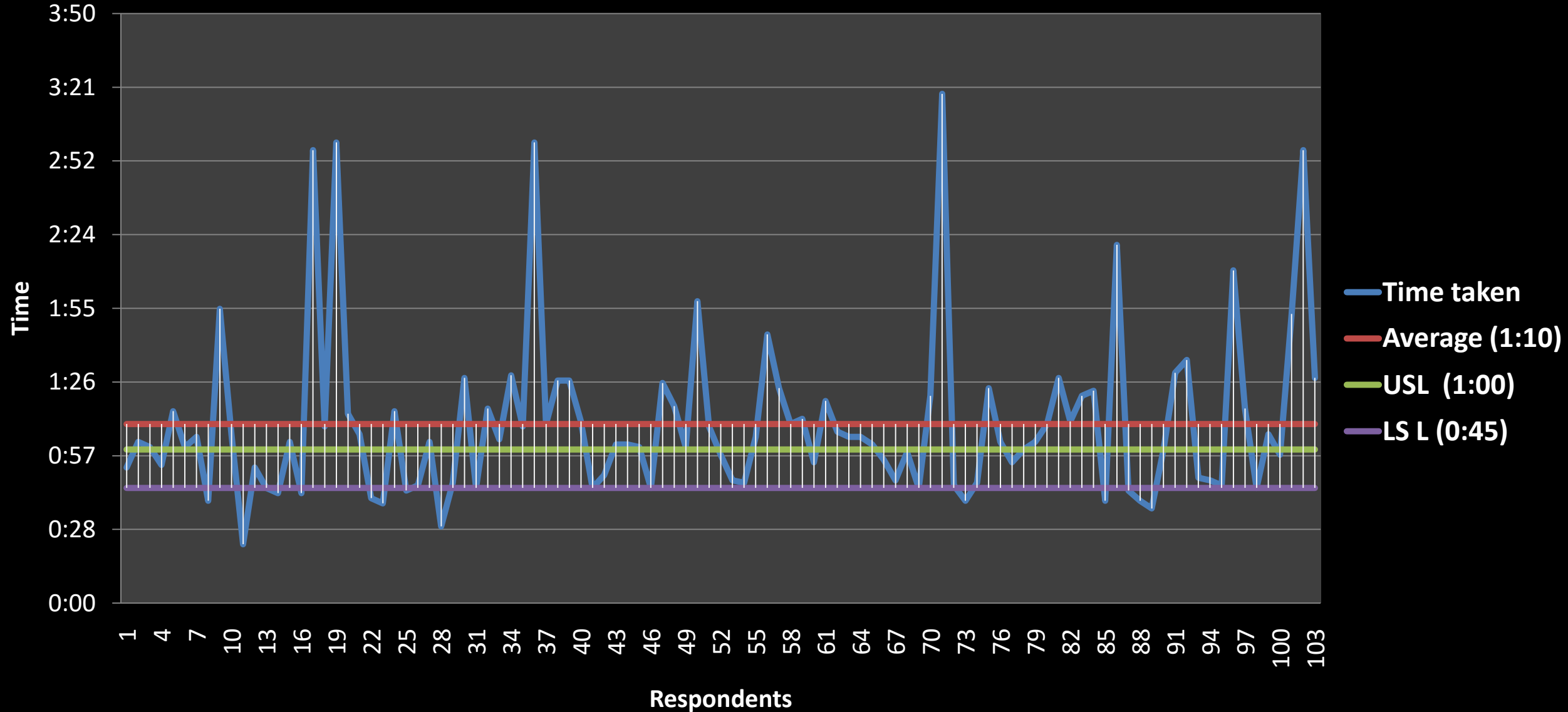


# Sampling : Part 2

|           | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Total |
|-----------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|-------|
| OPD       | 242    | 200     | 215       | 218      | 197    | 237      | 1309  |
| NA        | 35     | 32      | 39        | 34       | 29     | 44       | 213   |
| Packages  | 13     | 16      | 10        | 13       | 18     | 31       | 101   |
| Balance   | 194    | 152     | 166       | 171      | 150    | 162      | 995   |
| 10%       | 20     | 16      | 17        | 18       | 15     | 17       | 103   |
| NA %      | 14.46  | 16.00   | 18.14     | 15.60    | 14.72  | 18.57    | 16.27 |
| Package % | 5.37   | 8.00    | 4.65      | 5.96     | 9.14   | 13.08    | 7.72  |

# Results: Part-2(103)

Waiting time between 1st & 2nd billing

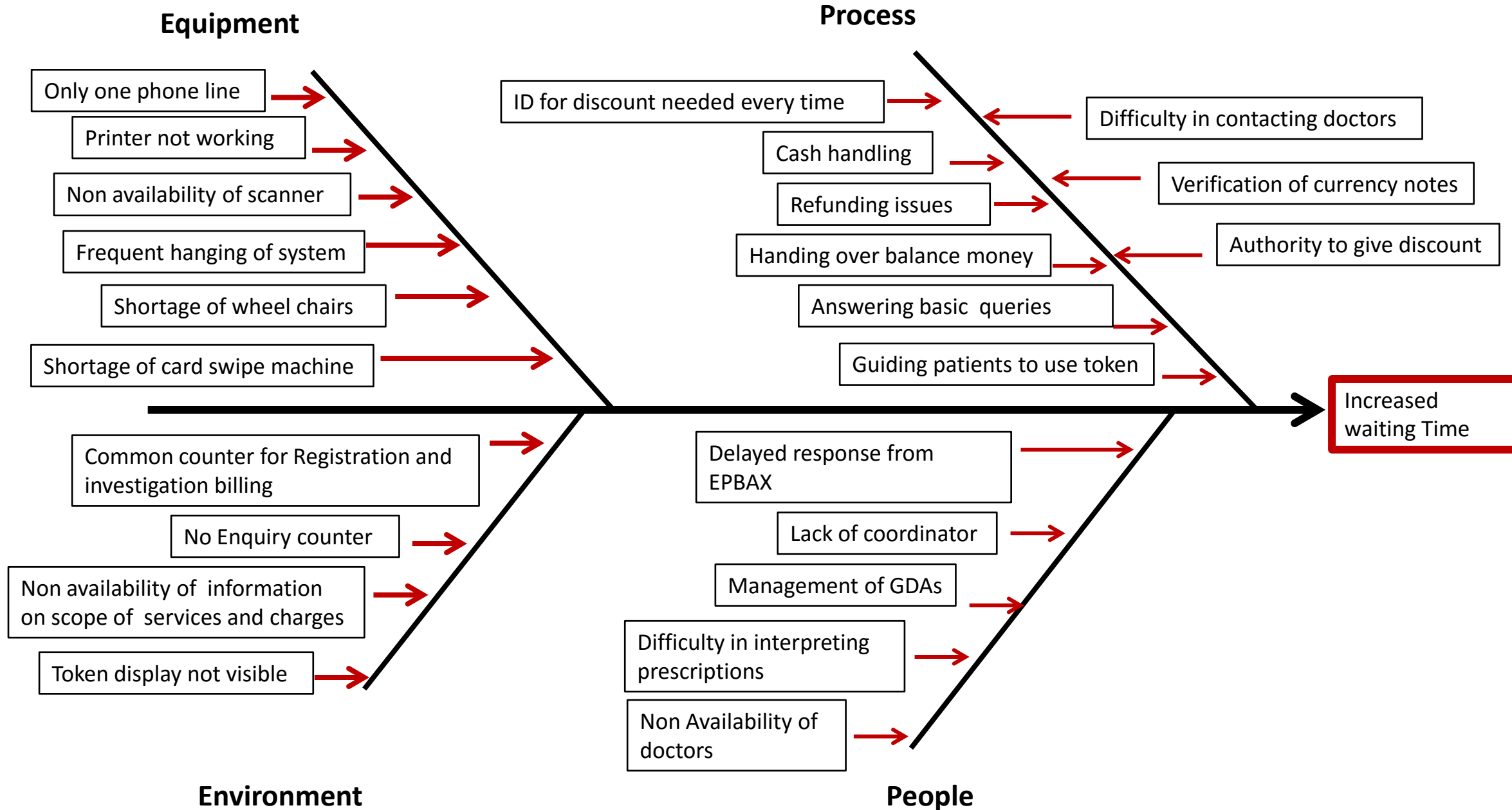








# Fish Bone Diagram



# Modified FMEA

| Causes                                                           | Occurrence | Severity | RPN | Rank |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|-----|------|
| Guiding patients to use token                                    | 9          | 1        | 9   | 15   |
| Handing over balance money                                       | 9          | 5        | 45  | 4.5  |
| Refunding issues                                                 | 1          | 9        | 9   | 15   |
| ID for discount needed every time                                | 9          | 5        | 45  | 4.5  |
| Answering basic queries                                          | 5          | 5        | 25  | 9.5  |
| No Authority to give discount                                    | 9          | 9        | 81  | 2    |
| Verification of currency notes                                   | 9          | 1        | 9   | 15   |
| Difficulty in handling Cash                                      | 9          | 1        | 9   | 15   |
| Difficulty in contacting doctors                                 | 5          | 5        | 25  | 9.5  |
| Delayed response from EPBAX                                      | 5          | 1        | 5   | 19   |
| Difficulty in interpreting prescriptions                         | 5          | 1        | 5   | 19   |
| Lack of coordinator                                              | 9          | 1        | 9   | 15   |
| Management of GDAs                                               | 5          | 1        | 5   | 19   |
| Common counter for Registration and investigation billing        | 9          | 9        | 81  | 2    |
| No Enquiry counter                                               | 9          | 1        | 9   | 15   |
| Non availability of information on scope of services and charges | 9          | 5        | 45  | 4.5  |
| Token display not visible                                        | 5          | 1        | 5   | 19   |
| Printer not working                                              | 5          | 1        | 5   | 19   |
| Non availability of scanner                                      | 9          | 5        | 45  | 4.5  |
| Frequent hanging of system                                       | 9          | 1        | 9   | 15   |
| Shortage of wheel chairs                                         | 5          | 5        | 25  | 9.5  |
| Shortage of card swipe machine                                   | 5          | 5        | 25  | 9.5  |
| Non availability of doctors                                      | 9          | 9        | 81  | 2    |



# Possible Solutions

| S/N | Causes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Some possible solutions                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | Pre and Post consultation billing counter is same.                                                                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Separate dedicated counter for post consultation billing(for investigations)</li><li>➤ Additional billing counter specially on high foot fall days like Mondays and Saturdays</li></ul>                |
| 2   | Discount cases handling <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Copy of ID being asked every time</li><li>➤ Non availability of scanner/photocopier</li><li>➤ Right to authorise not with person on counter</li></ul>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Information can be captured during registration and ID copy attached once only.</li><li>➤ Provision of scanner.</li><li>➤ Registration- in- charge can be given right to authorise discount.</li></ul> |
| 3   | Non availability of loose change                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Bulk provision of change of various denominations like Rs 1,2,5,10, 20,50 and 100 every morning.</li><li>➤ Provision of in lieu items like candies.</li></ul>                                          |
| 4   | Delay in making telephone calls to confirm prescription from doctors, to request for authorisation and for other routine issues due : <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Late response from 9</li><li>➤ Lack of telephone sets</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Direct call facility to the doctors can be provided between 10 AM to 2 PM.</li><li>➤ Provision of two telephone sets.</li></ul>                                                                        |

# Possible Solutions (continued)

| S/N | Causes                                                                                                                           | Some possible solutions                                                                                                                     |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5   | Frequent hanging of system                                                                                                       | ➤ Possible upgrading of system                                                                                                              |
| 6   | Sharing of card swipe machine between OPD I/II and PHC.                                                                          | ➤ Provision of additional swipe machine                                                                                                     |
| 7   | Frequent enquiry by patients about OPD days, OPD charges and other tests charges.                                                | ➤ Setting up of separate MAY I HELP YOU desk.<br>➤ Static display of OPD Schedule and the Charges                                           |
| 8   | Difficulty in handling of cash                                                                                                   | ➤ Provision of Cash trays<br>➤ Provision of partition in the drawer                                                                         |
| 9   | Guiding customers on use of token machine                                                                                        | ➤ Providing visual instructions on use of token machine                                                                                     |
| 10  | Answering basic queries of outside customers on telephone like types of facilities available, names and schedule of doctors etc. | ➤ Basic details could be available with the EPBAX operator who can satisfy the caller. Availability of doctors can be checked from the OPD. |

# Possible Solutions (continued)

| S/N | Causes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Some possible solutions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11  | <p>Non availability of doctors due to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Doctor not arrived in hospital.</li> <li>➤ Doctor on round in wards</li> <li>➤ Doctor in OT</li> <li>➤ Doctor gone for lunch</li> <li>➤ Doctor attending emergency patients</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Encourage appointment system</li> <li>➤ Doctors schedule can be displayed prominently in Hindi and English</li> <li>➤ Fixed schedule for the rounds should be displayed &amp; can be followed.</li> <li>➤ OT &amp; OPD days can be different.</li> </ul> |
| 12  | Wheel Chair Management                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ One or Two wheel chairs earmarked for OPD I and II could be placed at waiting area. Movement of these can be easily tracked.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                  |
| 13  | GDA Management                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A suitable tracking system like issue of slips with destination and time can be worked out.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                   |
| 14  | Token display screen not visible from the waiting area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It could be placed centrally in front of the waiting area.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 15  | Verification of fake Currency notes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A currency counting and verification machine could be provided</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                |

# Interventions

**Separate counter  
for registration**

**Person authorised  
for discount made  
available**

**Placing of wheel  
chairs**

**Educating EPBAX  
operator for  
better response**

**Rounding off  
discount rates**

**Provision of loose  
money**



**Control**

# Control

## Ho 1

- There is no reduction in waiting time in Part 1 of the process before and after the interventions.

## Ho 2

- There is no reduction in waiting time for Part 2 of the process before and after the interventions.

## Ho 3

- There is no significant increase in patients who were cleared in less than 0:15 minutes in Part 1 of the process, before and after the interventions

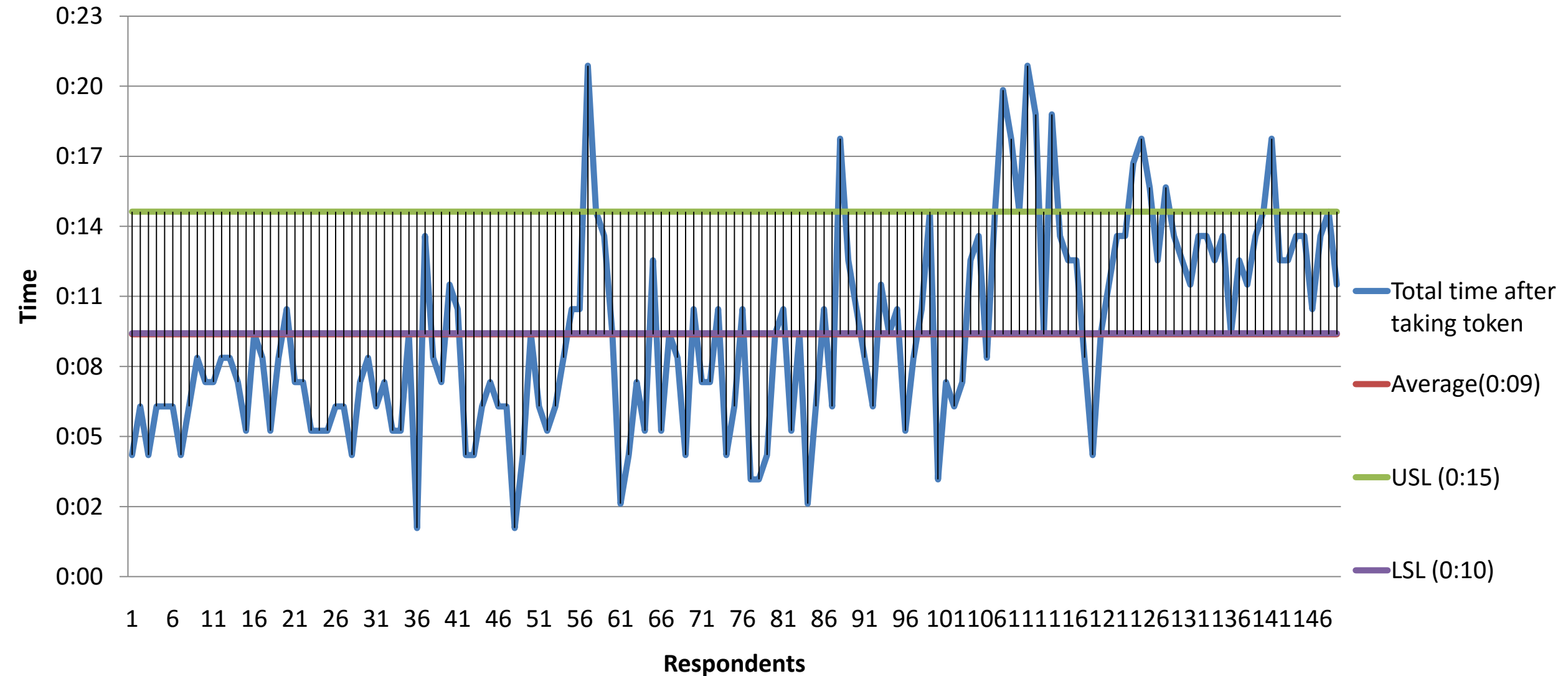
## Ho 4

- There is no significant increase in patients who were cleared in less than 0:60 minutes in Part 2 of the process before and after the interventions.

# Results: Part-1(n=149)

Ho 1 Rejected, t-Value  $4.62 > 1.96$  (95% C I)

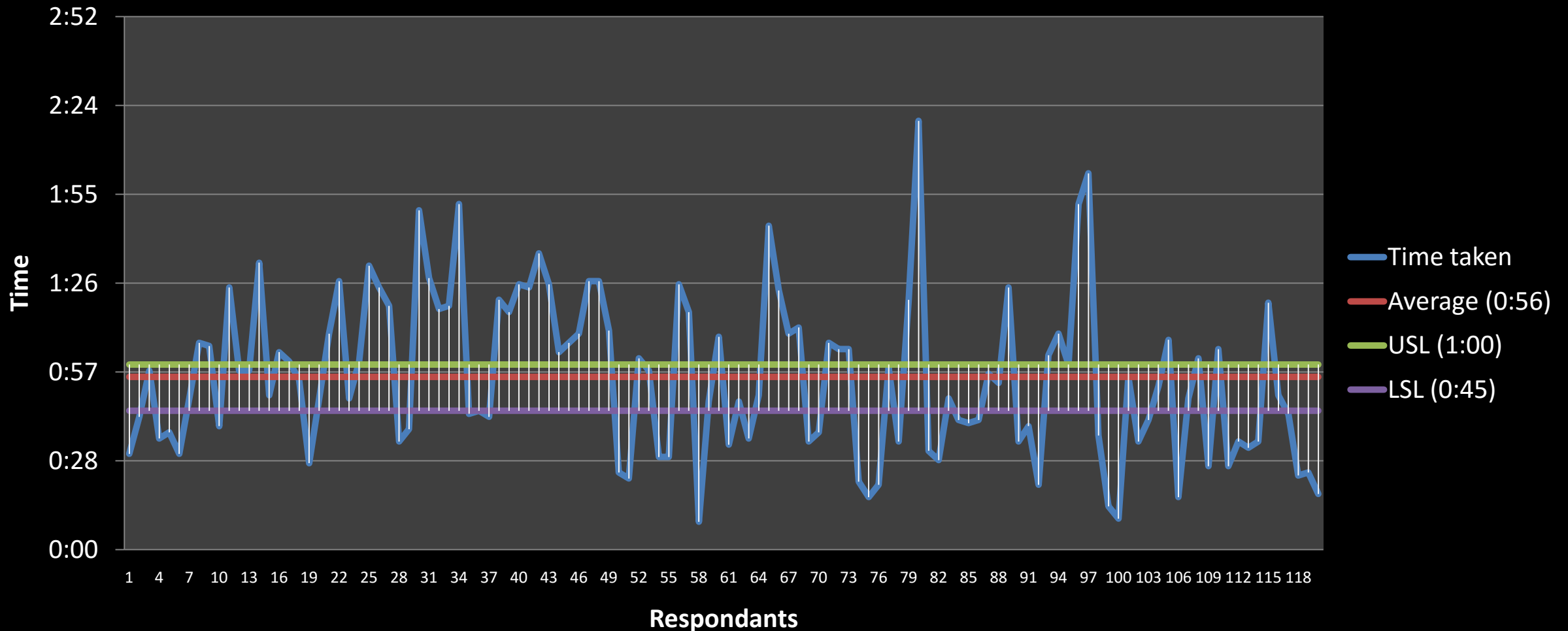
Waiting time before billing



# Results: Part-2(n=120)

Ho 2 Rejected, t-Value  $10.85 > 3.39$  (99% C I)

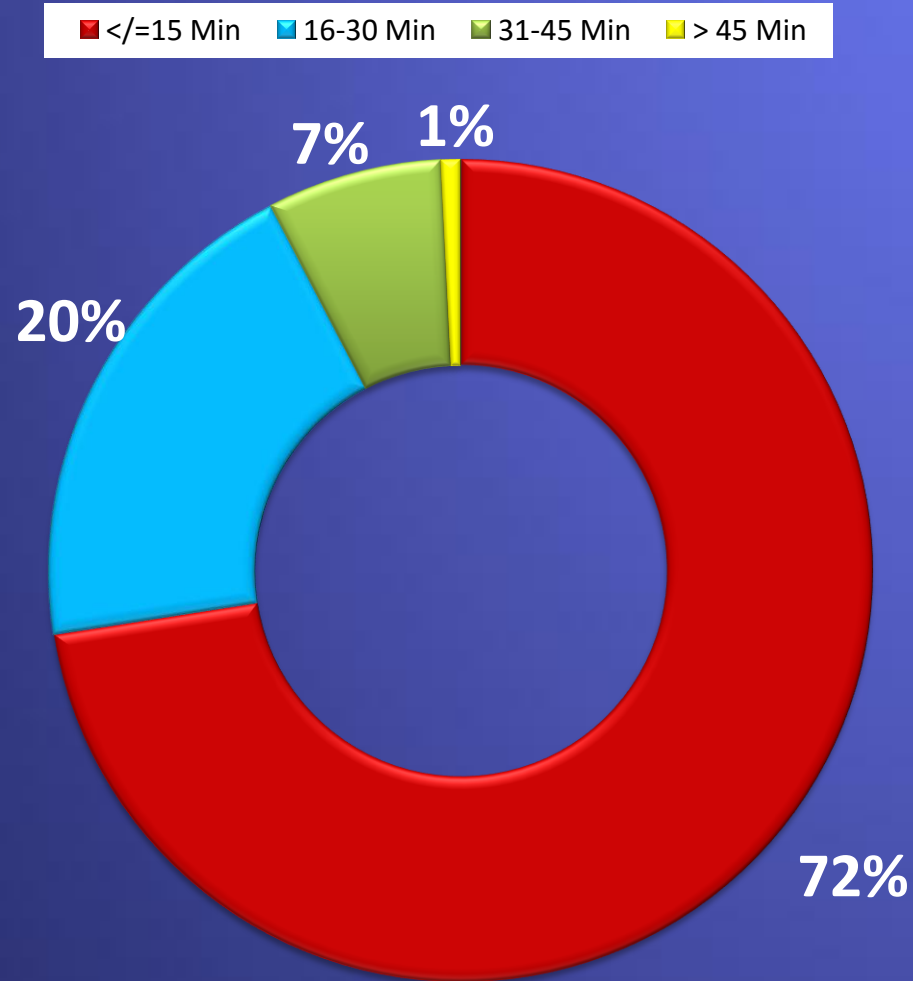
Waiting time between 1st & 2nd billing



Ho 3 Rejected, z-Value 4.31 > 1.96 (95% C I)

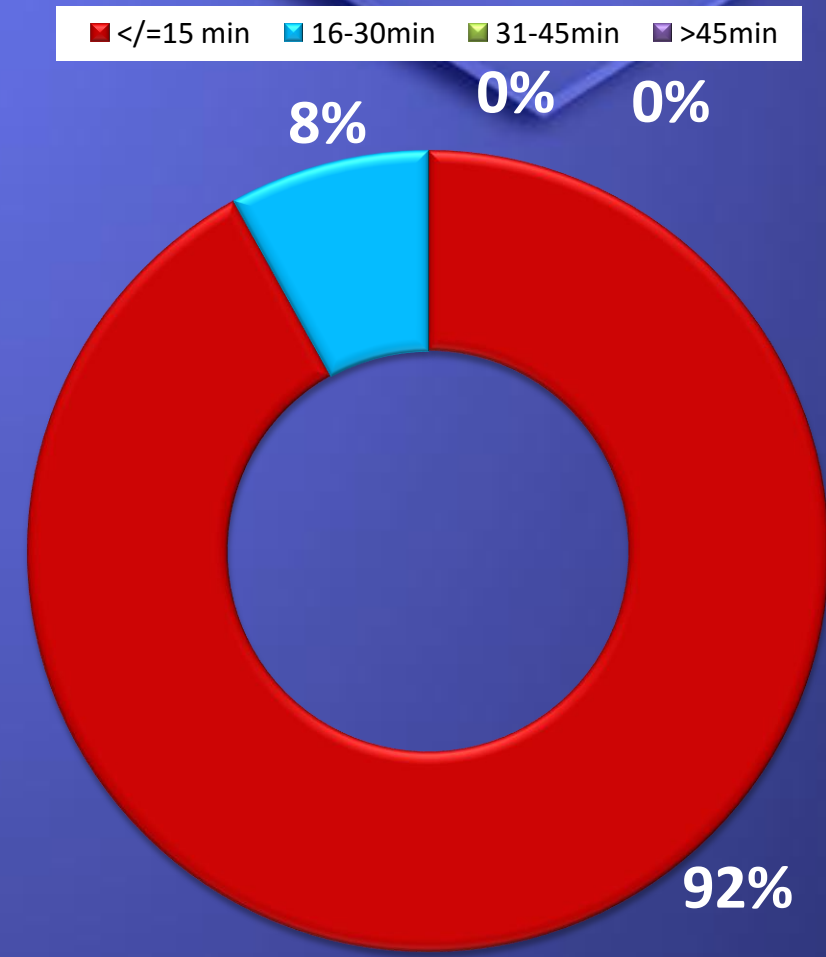
**Before**

Waiting time



**After**

Waiting time

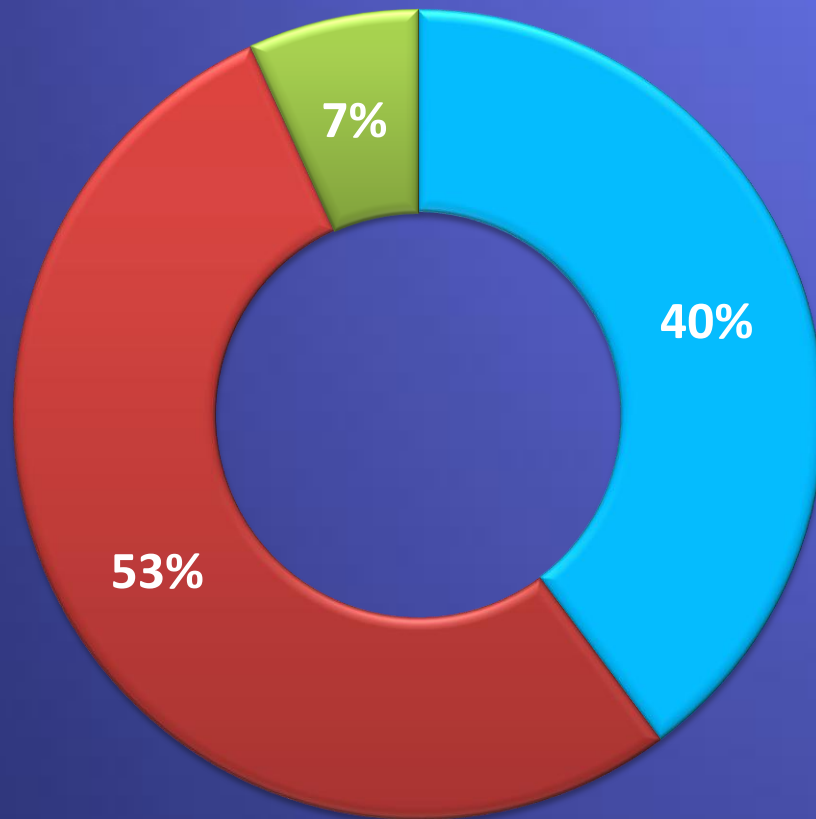


Ho 4 Rejected, z-Value 2.51 > 1.96 (95% C I)

**Before**

Time between two billings

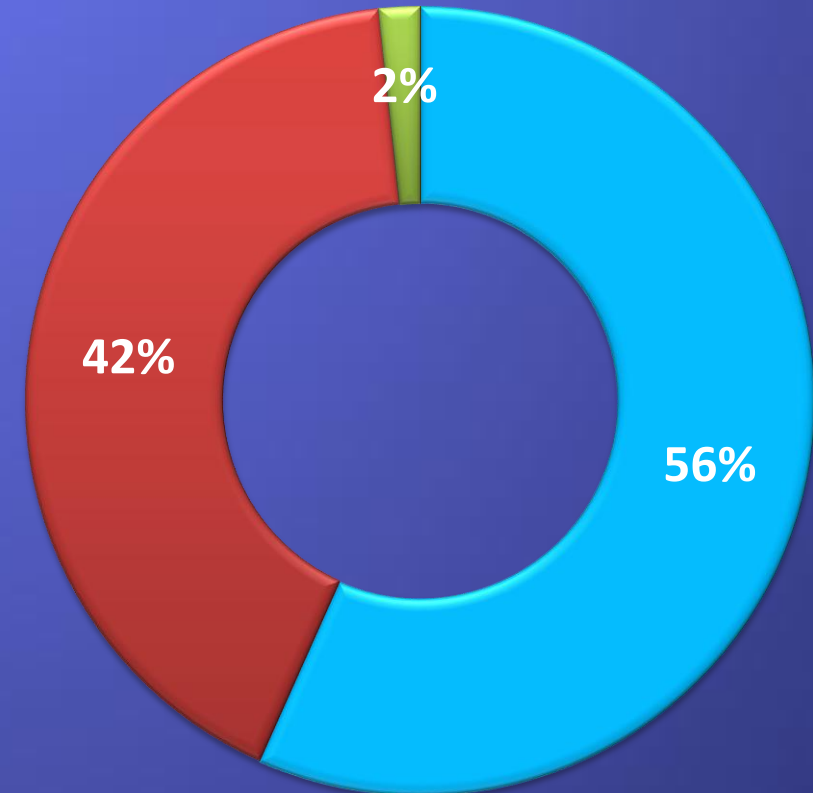
■ < 60 min   ■ 61 to 120 min   ■ > 120 Min



**After**

Time between two billings

■ < 60 min   ■ 61 to 120 mins   ■ > 120 Min



# Limitations

**Time has been rounded off to nearest minute.**

**Patients who meet the doctor before billing could not be included.**

**Waiting time for each doctor could not be calculated separately due to time and other resource constraint.**



# Glimpses Part 1





Glimpses  
Part 2

# Conclusion

Six Sigma an effective tool



Significant reduction in TAT



Preliminary quality  
improvement project

THANK YOU!

