



Reducing the number of surgeries that are canceled or rescheduled due to patient failure to stop anticoagulant medication



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Background

- The cost burden is high for rescheduling surgeries
- Rescheduling places burden on patients
- Simple interventions can help reduce number of avoidable reschedules
- Patients of Vanderbilt ENT do not receive reminder calls or texts regarding when to discontinue anticoagulants
- Surgeries would require rescheduling for patients actively taking anticoagulants
- Otherwise, patients would be at greater risk of bleeding during the surgery

Aim Statement

By April 1, 2020 we want to reduce the number of surgeries rescheduled and/or canceled for failure to halt anticoagulant medication recommendations in the head and neck cancer clinic.

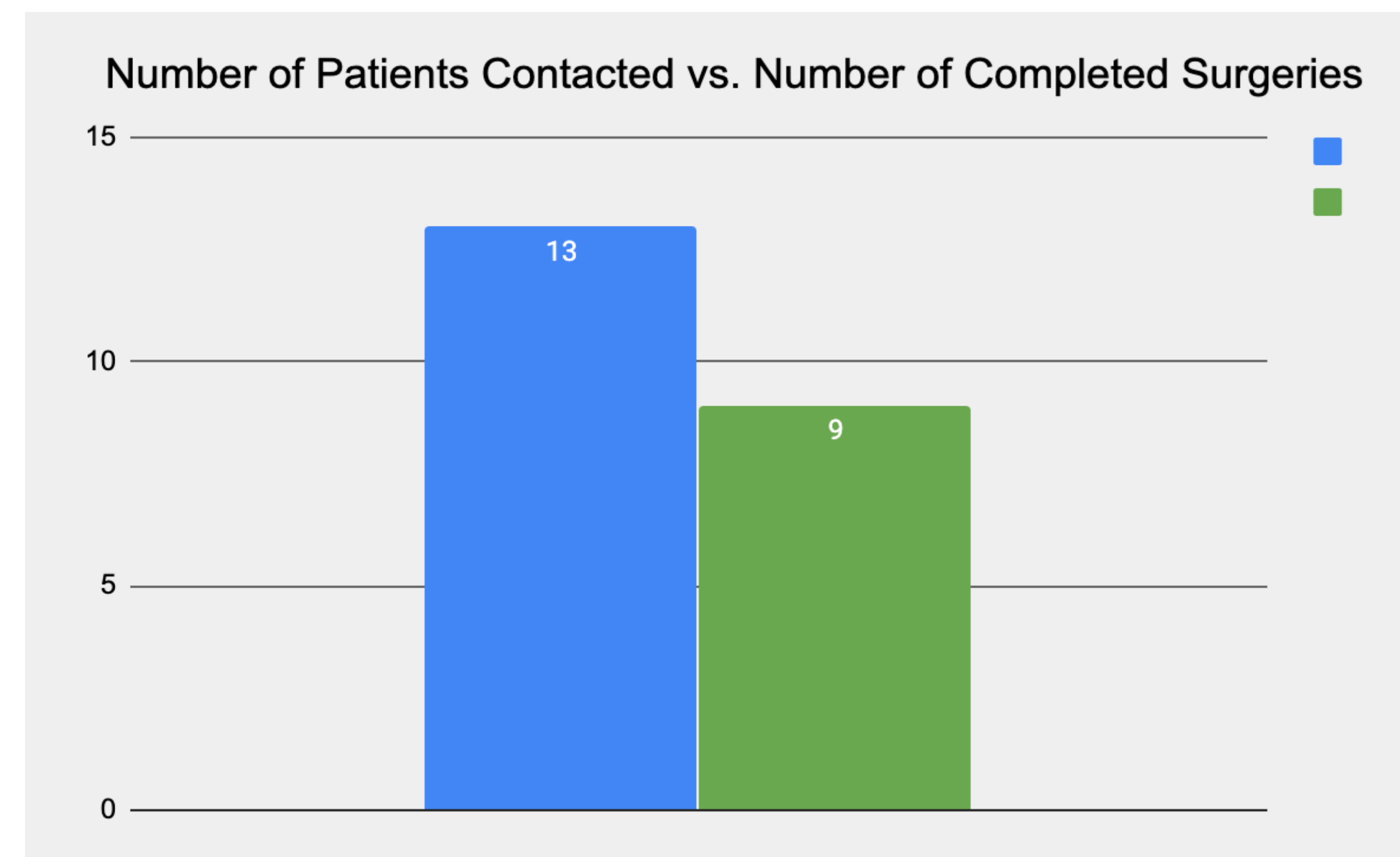
Measures

- Between January to March 2020, we called adults, 18+, who were currently taking anticoagulants one day prior to surgery in order to remind them to discontinue anticoagulant therapy.

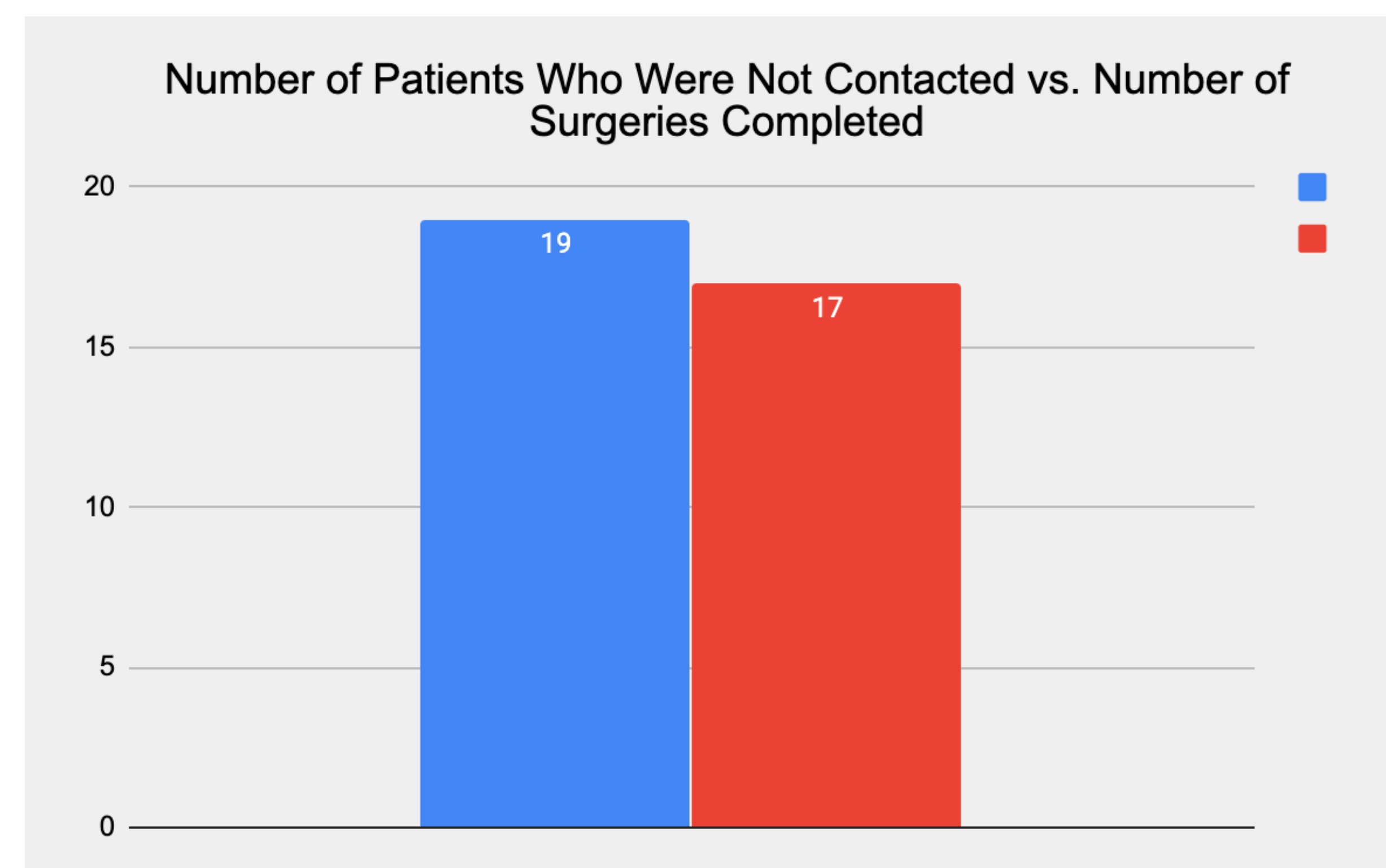
# Days before Surgery to Discontinue	Medication
7	Naproxen
7	Ibuprofen
7	Aspirin
7	Meloxicam
7	Celecoxib
7	Warfarin/Plavix
5	Brilinta
3	Pradaxa
3	Eliquis
3	Xarelto

Results

- Out of six cancellations, zero were canceled because anticoagulants were not discontinued
- Six different reasons for surgery cancelation



Canceled Surgery	Reason
1	Patient is deceased
2	Patient is pregnant
3	Insurance complications
4	BP not under control
5	Patient decided to cancel
6	Elective surgery, cancelled



Conclusions

- Sample size is too small to determine if intervention was successful
- Intervention is still meaningful because cost of rescheduling surgeries is still high, and patients might benefit from a reminder call or text
- The change items have not been adopted into the healthcare system yet due to lack of personnel and inability to implement automated methods

Lessons Learned

- When implementing interventions, it is important to think deeply about potential limitations due to the particulars of the patient population
- It may have been more efficient to include a phone and text option

Future Work

- Follow up on effectiveness of intervention in reducing the number of surgeries rescheduled
- Implement automated text messaging and call reminders to stop the anticoagulant in the EHR for the Head and Neck Surgery Clinic
- Implement automated text messaging and call reminders to stop the anticoagulant in the EHR for surgical clinics within Vanderbilt Medical Center

References

- Cho, Hyun Sun et al. "Reasons for Surgery Cancellation in a General Hospital: A 10-Year Study." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 16.1 (2018): n. pag. Web.
- Kaddoum, Roland et al. "Causes of Cancellations on the Day of Surgery at a Tertiary Teaching Hospital.(Report)." *BMC Health Services Research* 16.1 (2016): 259. Web.