

Cappuccini Audit – Improvement in Anaesthetic Supervision with Implementation of the Duty Floor Anaesthetist

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Background:

The Cappuccini test is a Royal College of Anaesthetists endorsed test named after the late Frances Cappuccini who sadly passed away in 2012 after giving birth to her son. The coroner’s inquest found that the supervision for the anaesthetist was ‘undefined and inadequate’ (1).

Royal College of Anaesthetists guidelines for the provision of Anaesthesia services for intra-operative care:

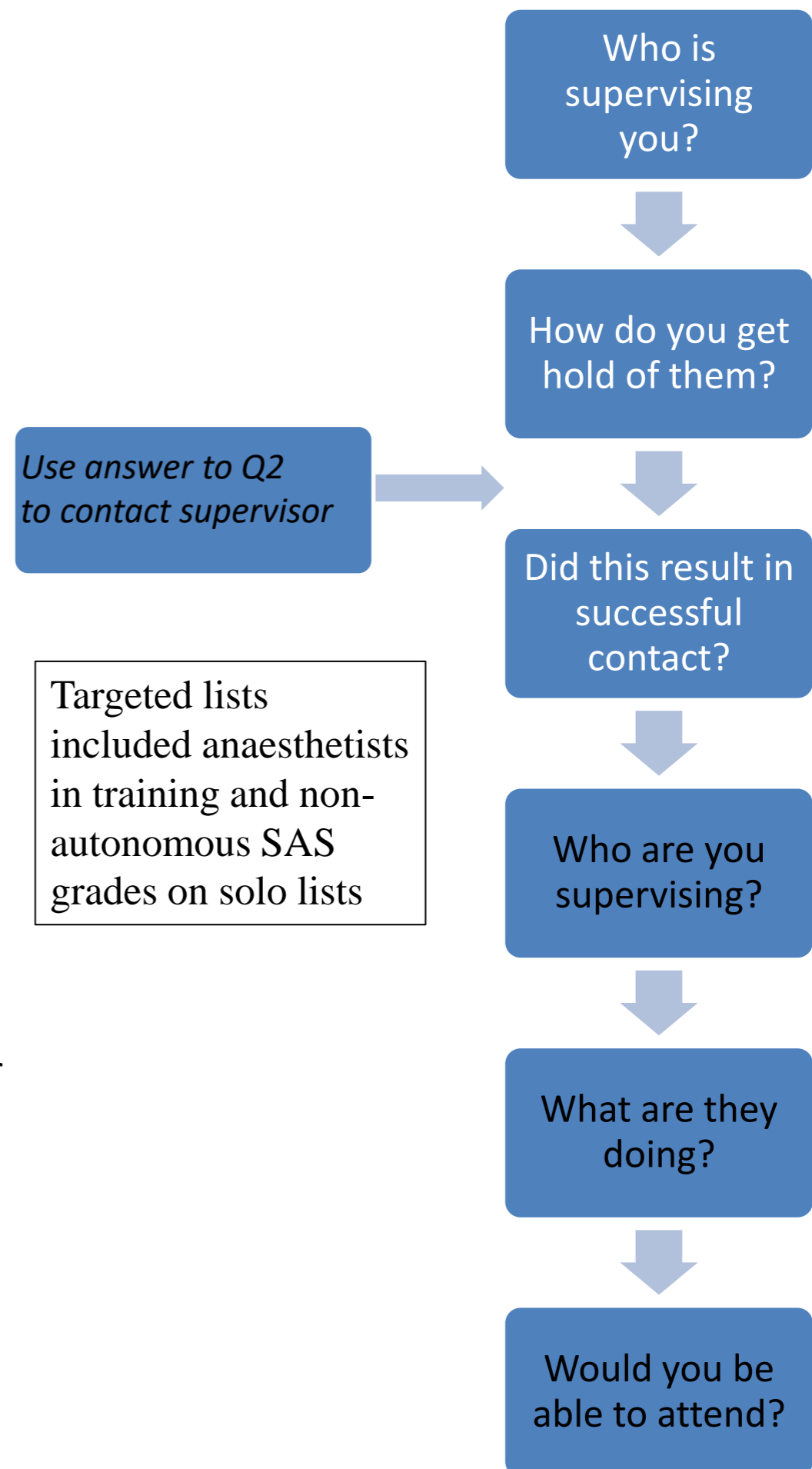
“Departments of anaesthesia should ensure that a named supervisory consultant is available to all non consultant anaesthetists based on the training and experience of the individual doctor and the range and scope of their clinical practice. Where an anaesthetist is supervised by a consultant, they should be aware of their supervisor’s identity, location and how to contact them” (1).

Methods:

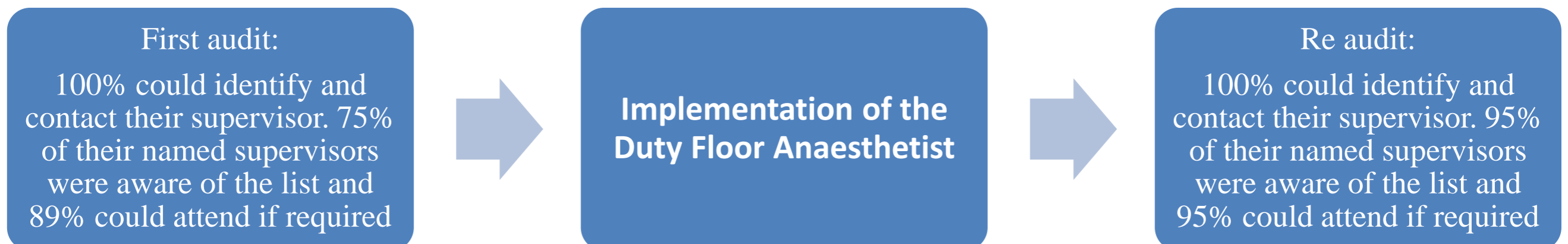
We collected baseline data using the Cappuccini test from 28 lists over an 8 week period in Spring 2023 at the Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust. Since the Duty Floor Anaesthetist role started in 2024, the Cappuccini test has been repeated and data collected from 20 lists over a 6 week period.

The Duty floor anaesthetist is a new job role and has several responsibilities; one of which includes supervising anaesthetists in training and non-autonomous SAS grades on solo lists

The Cappuccini test



Results:



Conclusion and discussion:

The Cappuccini test highlighted a key area of under supervision within the anaesthetic department at the Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust. The test results contributed to the implementation of the new DFA role which has significantly improved supervisors awareness of their supervisory responsibilities and thus improved patient safety. Effective supervision of postgraduate medical trainees has been linked to improved patient and learning outcomes (2,3).

References:

- (1) Royal College of Anaesthetists, safety, standards & quality – Cappuccini Test, accessed 25 February 2024, <https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/safety-standards-quality/patient-safety/cappuccini-test>
- (2) Timothy Hodgson, Victoria Brazil, Eve Purdy, You are in charge now: exploration of educational relationships between anaesthetic trainees and their supervising specialists, BJA Open, Volume 6, 2023, 100137, ISSN 2772-6096, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bjao.2023.100137>.
- (3) Kilminster S. Jolly B. Effective supervision in clinical practice settings: a literature review. Med Educ. 2000; 34: 827-840