

Reducing Length of Stay by Half in a 6-Month Time Frame

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PURPOSE

Demonstrate the impact of a multidisciplinary team in reducing length of stay for patients undergoing minimally invasive urologic surgery.

FRAMEWORK

The benefits of interdisciplinary collaboration and shared governance are clearly stated in the literature. A shared governance structure was formed, co-chaired by a nurse/physician dyad. The interdisciplinary team included:

- Urologic surgery
- Nursing
- Physical therapy
- Dietary
- Social Work
- Case Management
- Anesthesia
- Pre-Admission Testing
- Surgical Services
- Marketing & Communications
- Quality

Lead by the urology institute's nurse coordinator, the interdisciplinary team reviewed the care delivery for patients undergoing a robotic assisted laparoscopic radical prostatectomy and identified opportunities for redesign.



METHODOLOGY

After a review of the literature, the team developed an evidence-based care pathway, spanning the pre-operative, intra-operative, post-operative and post-discharge phases of care. Key components of the care pathway include:

- Standardized medication, nursing, diet and activity orders among all surgeons
- Nurse-driven guidelines for advancement of diet
- Ambulation post-operative day zero
- Pre-operative patient education session taught by members of the nursing, social work and physical therapy teams
- Development of discharge instructions and urinary catheter care instructions
- Daily rounding by the urology institute's nurse coordinator
- Follow up phone calls

RESULTS

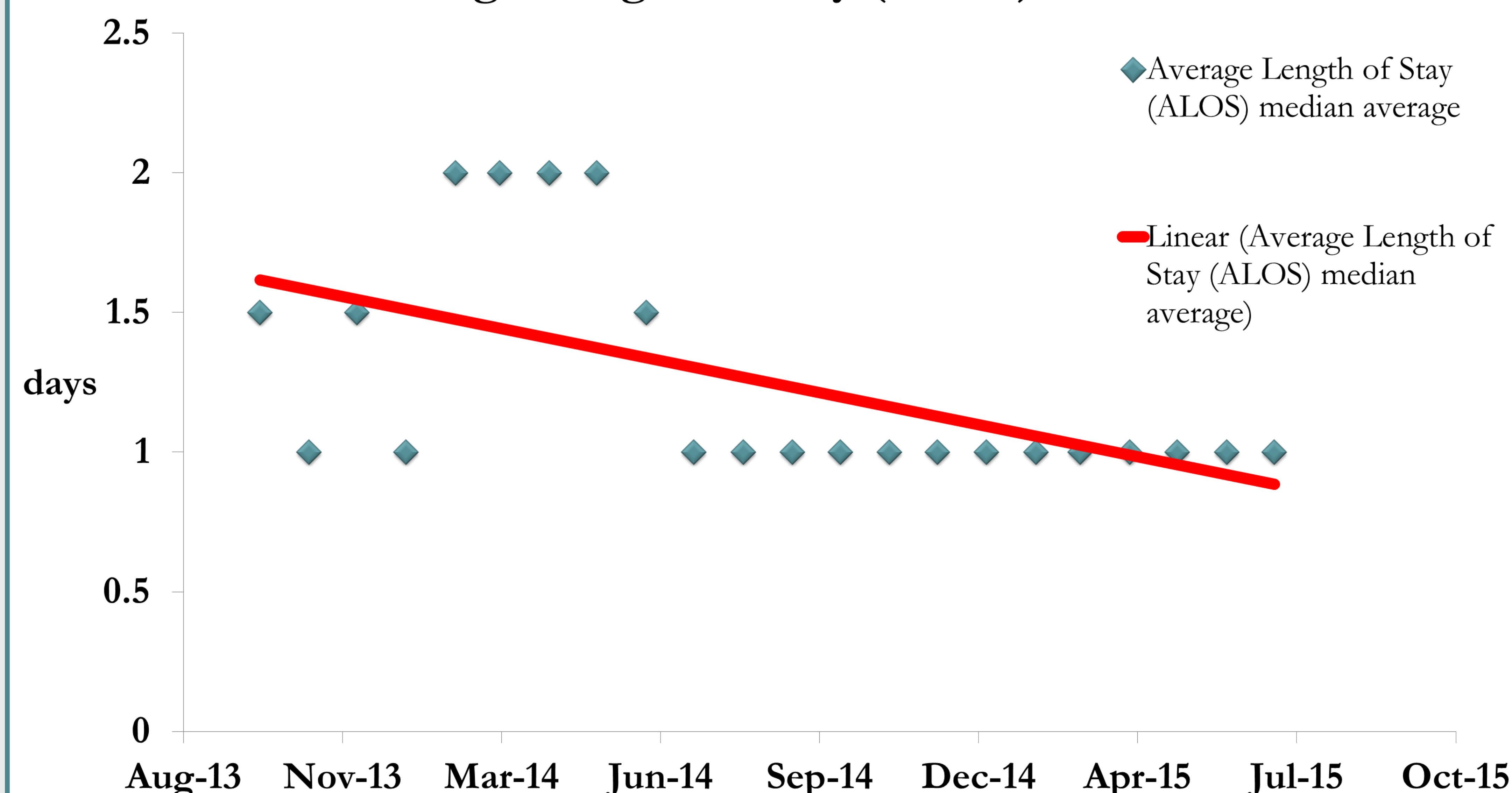
Post care pathway implementation, our organization experienced a reduction in the average [median] length of stay, from 2.1 days to 1.0 days.

CONCLUSIONS

The multidisciplinary team's development of a evidence-based care pathway was successful in reducing the length of stay by half. Our organization's structure and process could be replicated for other hospital service lines, procedures or diagnoses and has the potential for similar improvement in quality outcomes, cost savings, teamwork and collaboration among different departments.



Average Length of Stay (ALOS) Trend



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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