

Introduction:

Our hospital system sought to standardize and consolidate our surgical gloves and address any cost differential. There currently were 4 companies, 52 styles and 229 SKUs with mostly latex options. Redesigning (reforming) the 15-hospital continuum of BayCare Health System would be a huge undertaking.

Objectives:

- Promote a double gloving safety indicator quick response glove system
- Provide a latex free environment.
- Address center core and OR room storage issues for supplies and new equipment, all on a system wide basis.
- Work with one company who could meet all goals including chemical free options for our staff with allergies

Decision Considerations:

- ✓ A colored indicator underglove for staff safety and protection
- ✓ Comfort and fit for all staff
- ✓ Quality vs. cost comparison
- ✓ User preference



Methods:

Following careful analysis, the VAT committee approved one manufacturer. Prior to the initiative, extensive on-site education on a variety of topics including Surgical Site Infections, latex allergy, sharps safety and fiscal responsibility was offered through In- service and Continuing Education (CE) opportunities as well as informational posters, literature and articles.

Champions were identified and lines of communication established. Information was disseminated through staff meetings, huddles, and posted information. Resources included management, charge nurses, surgical educators, and procurement analysts.

Research with the glove manufacturer matched new styles closest to those currently in use as trial options were chosen. Trial dates with evaluation forms were planned in each operating room suite over several weeks with the glove company on site.

Results:

Early trials and successes administered system wide streamlined the transition process. All 15 hospitals successfully standardized and consolidated to a single surgical glove provider. Glove styles decreased from 52 to 13 (Figure A), and SKUs from 229 to 55 (Figure B)

- Multiple facilities went latex free
- All were double gloving with a latex free colored underglove
- Recovered storage space now available was priceless

Figure A

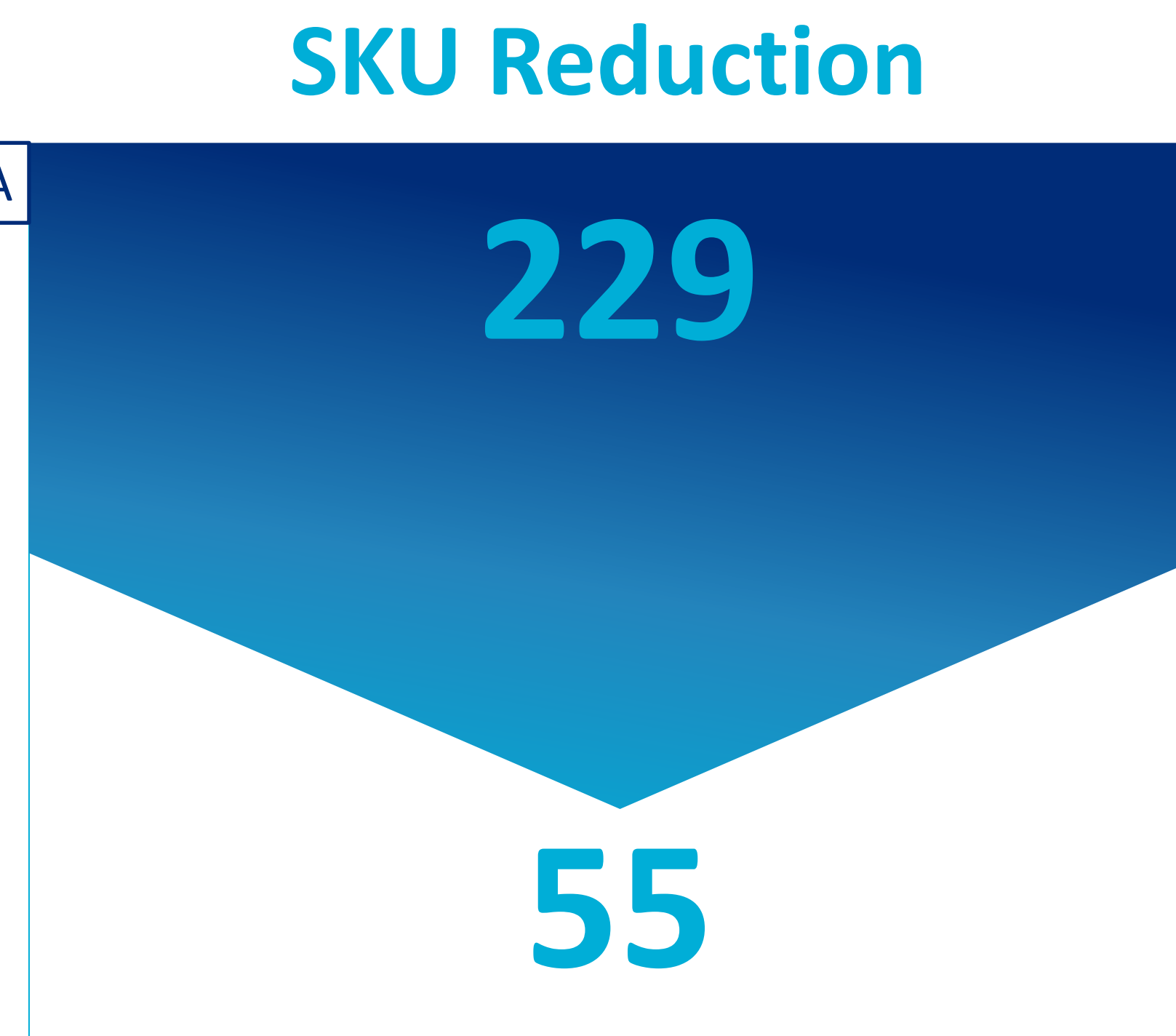


Figure B



75% decrease in glove styles stocked

Conclusion:

Preplanning, education, working in partnership with team members and using all resources available are necessary for a glove transition to be as smooth as possible.