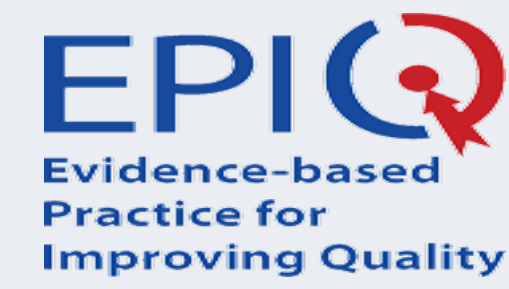


# INSPIRING SUCCESS:

## The Journey to a NEC Free NICU

### Authors

Claire Hamilton MN RN, Thomas Sproat MBChB MD, Christel Wood, RN, IBCLC, Jill-Marie Spence RD, Megan Knauff, RD, MPH, Kelsey Groenenboom MN NNP, Ayman Abou Mehrem MD, FABP, MSc, Gemma Boardman, BSc, RN, Megan Roy MD, Ashley Harder RN, and Belal Alshaikh MD, MSc, MSCE.  
On behalf of the Foothills Medical Centre EPIQ Team



### Project Aim

Using a multi-pronged approach to reduce the incidence of NEC among infants born  $\leq 32$  6/7 weeks gestation in the Calgary Zone NICUs to  $\leq 2\%$  within 2 years.

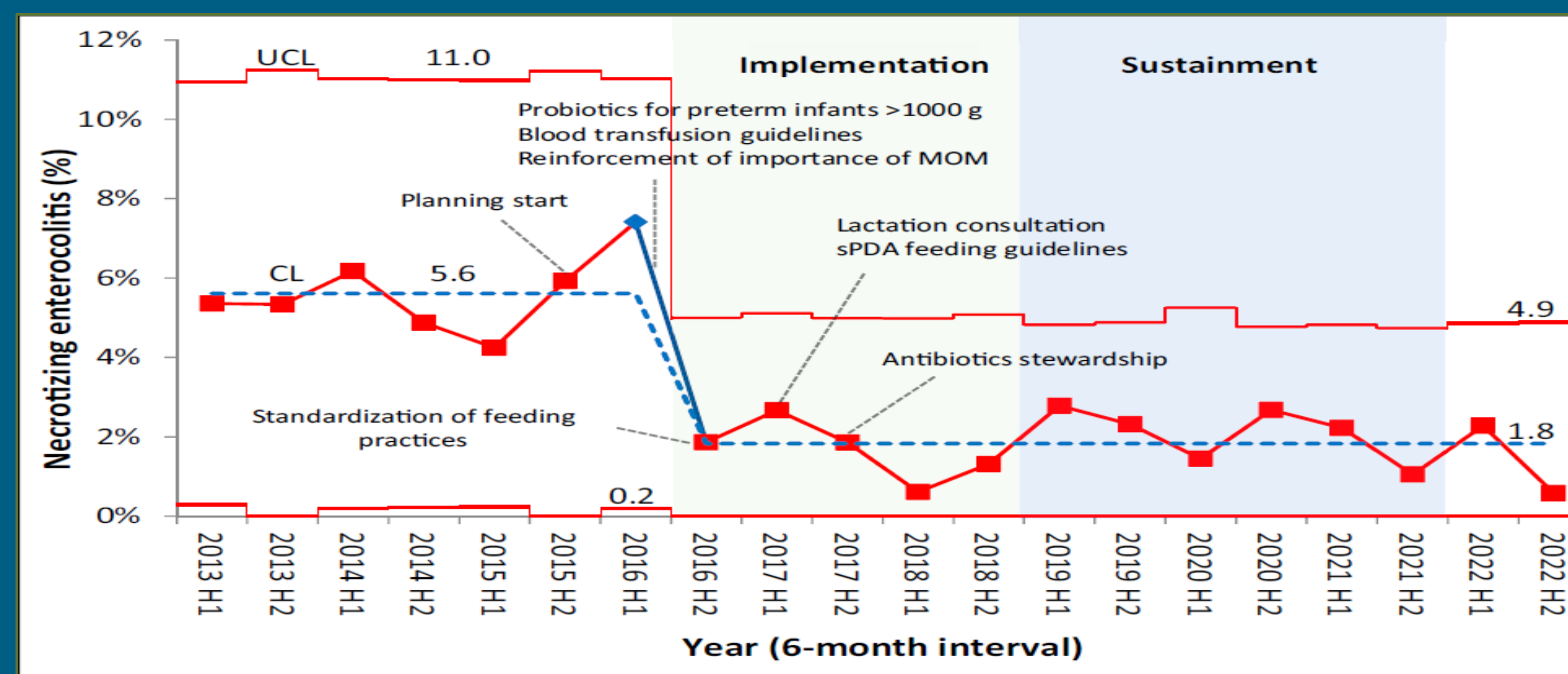
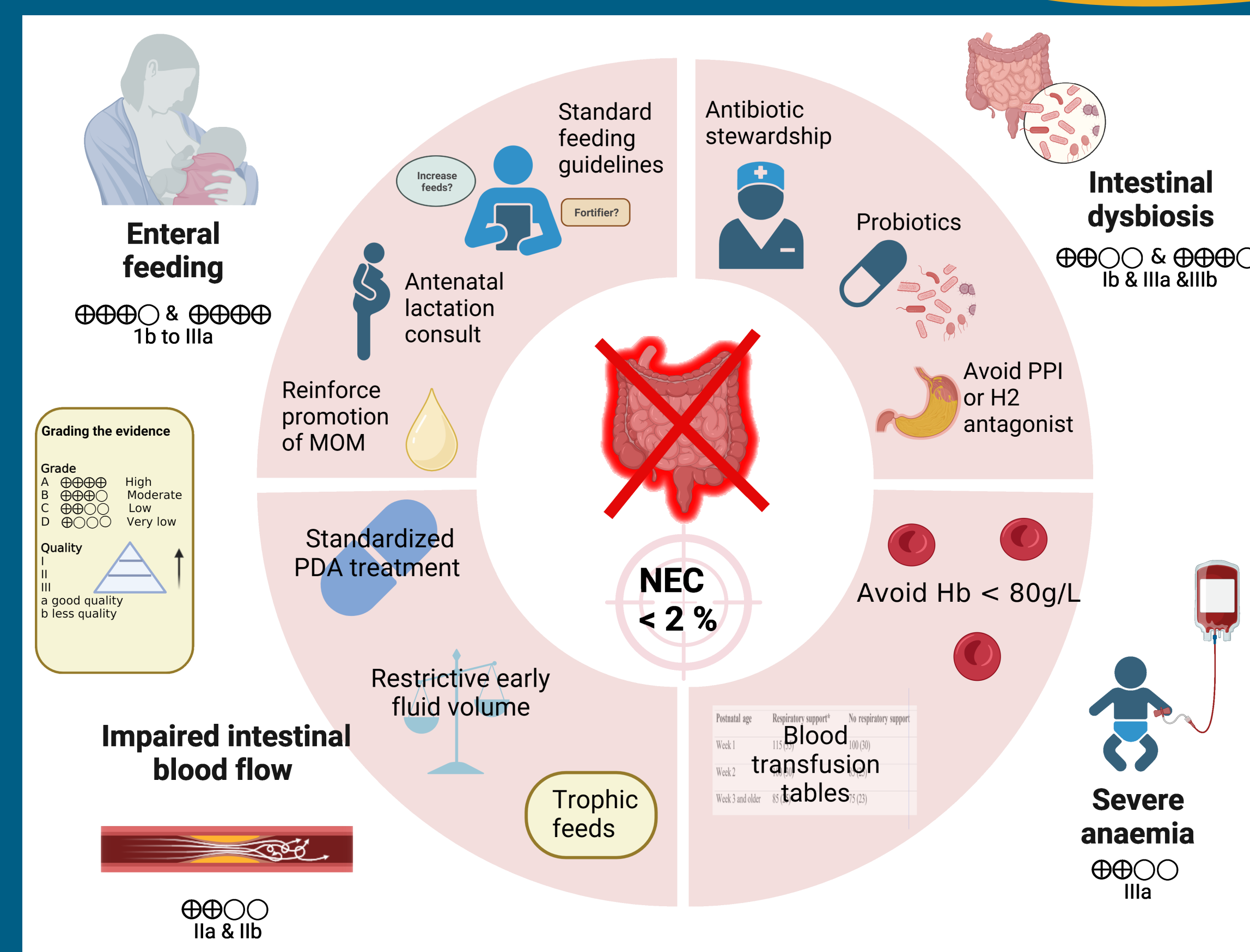
### PDSA Cycles

- Reviewed Incidence of NEC
- Reviewed Literature
- Established multidisciplinary NEC Free NICU working group
- Reinforcement education on importance of MOM & Standardized Feeding advancement tables
- Guidelines for PDA treatment in relation to feeding
- Standardized guidelines for management of feeding intolerance

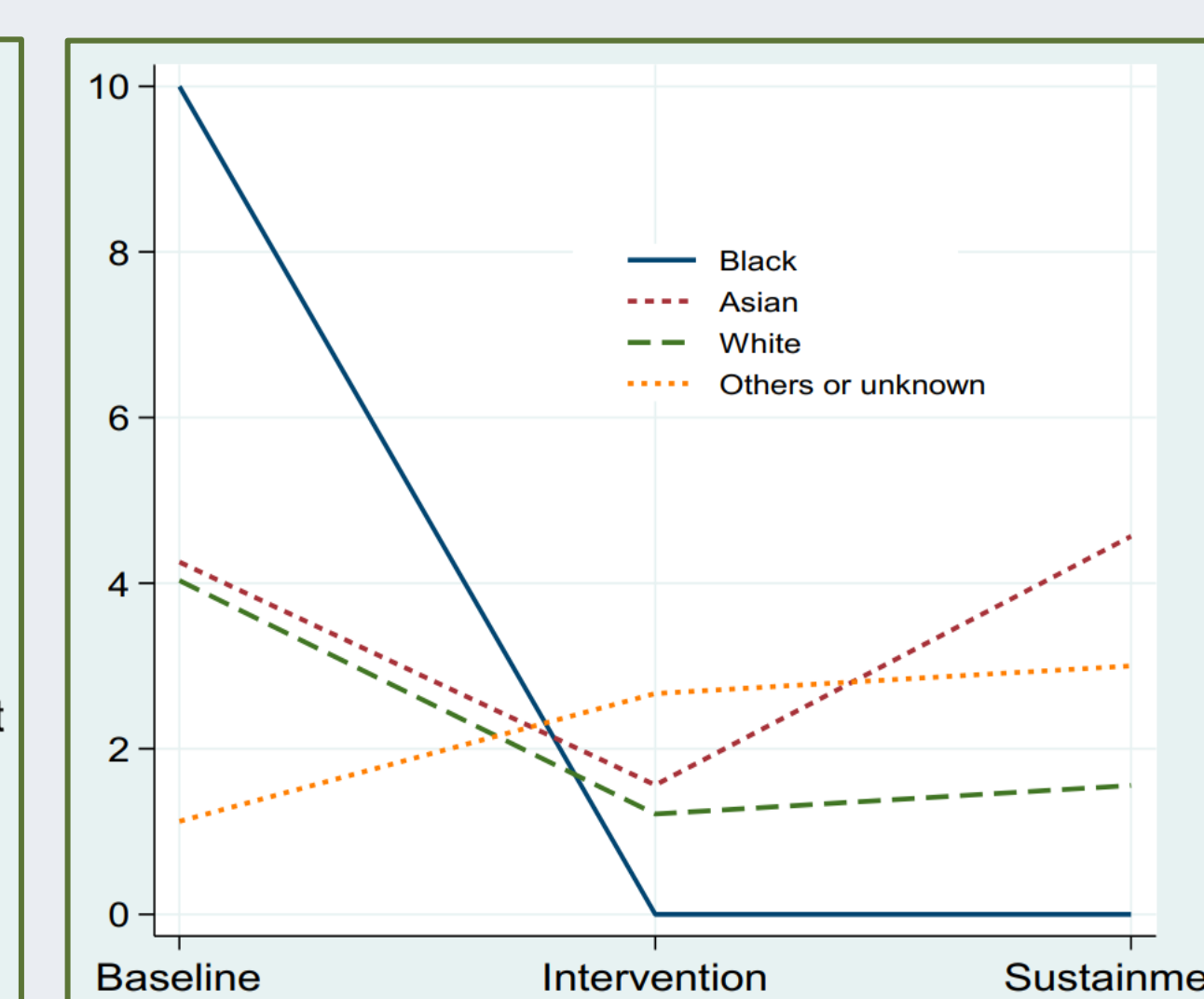
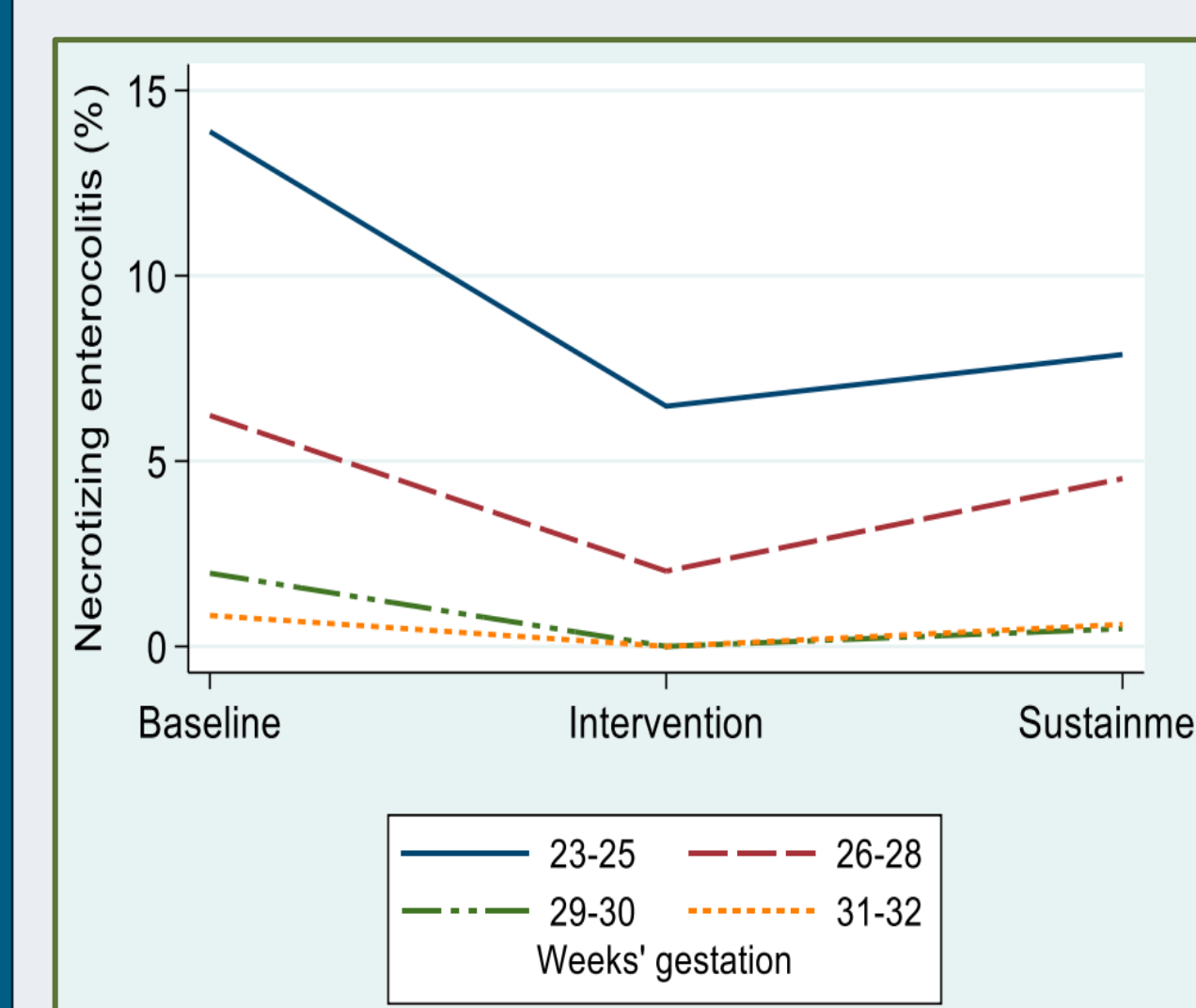
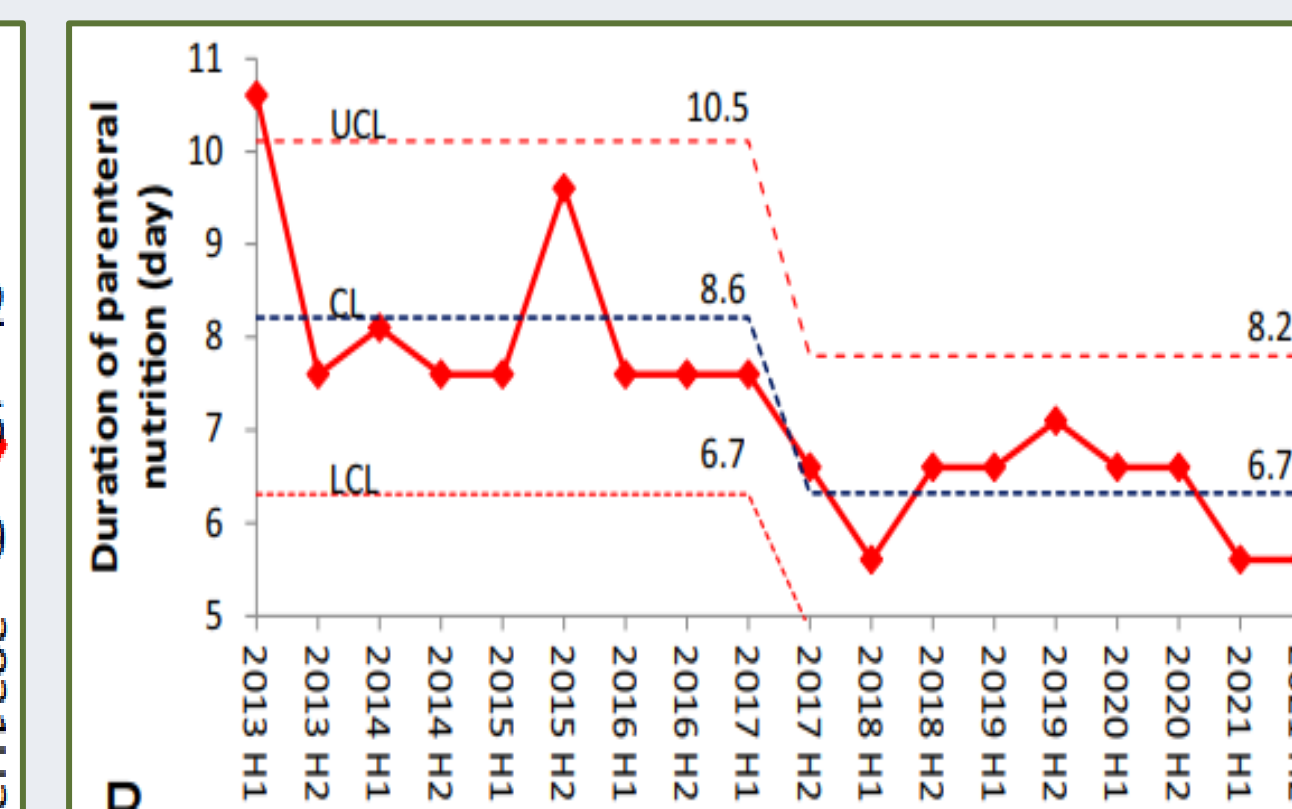
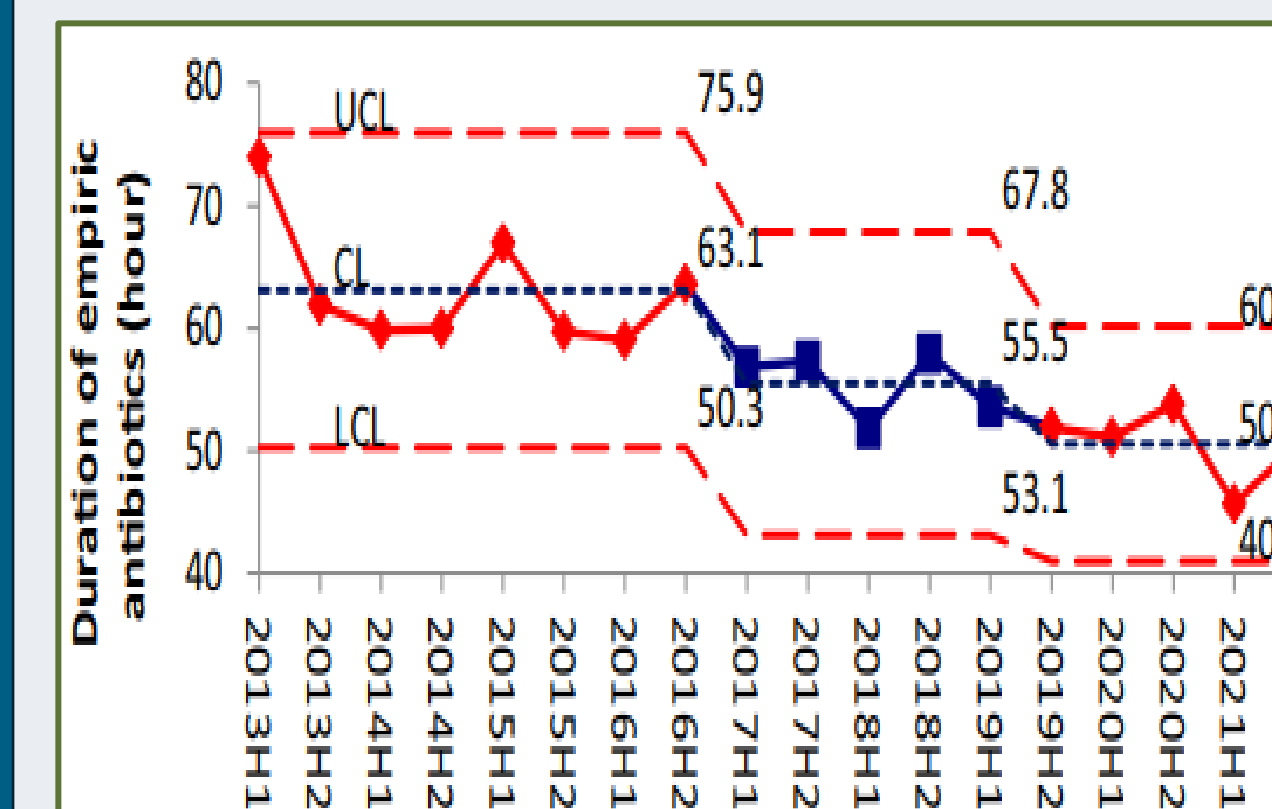
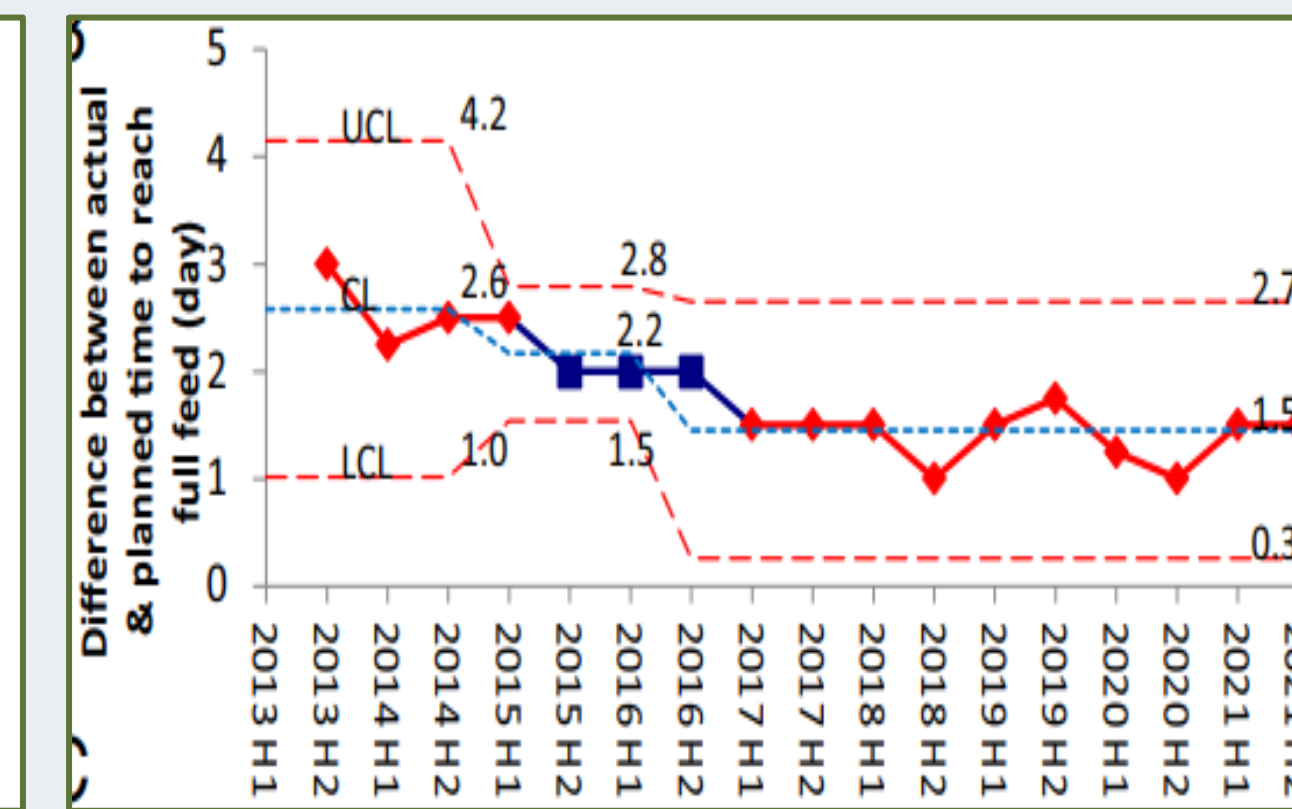
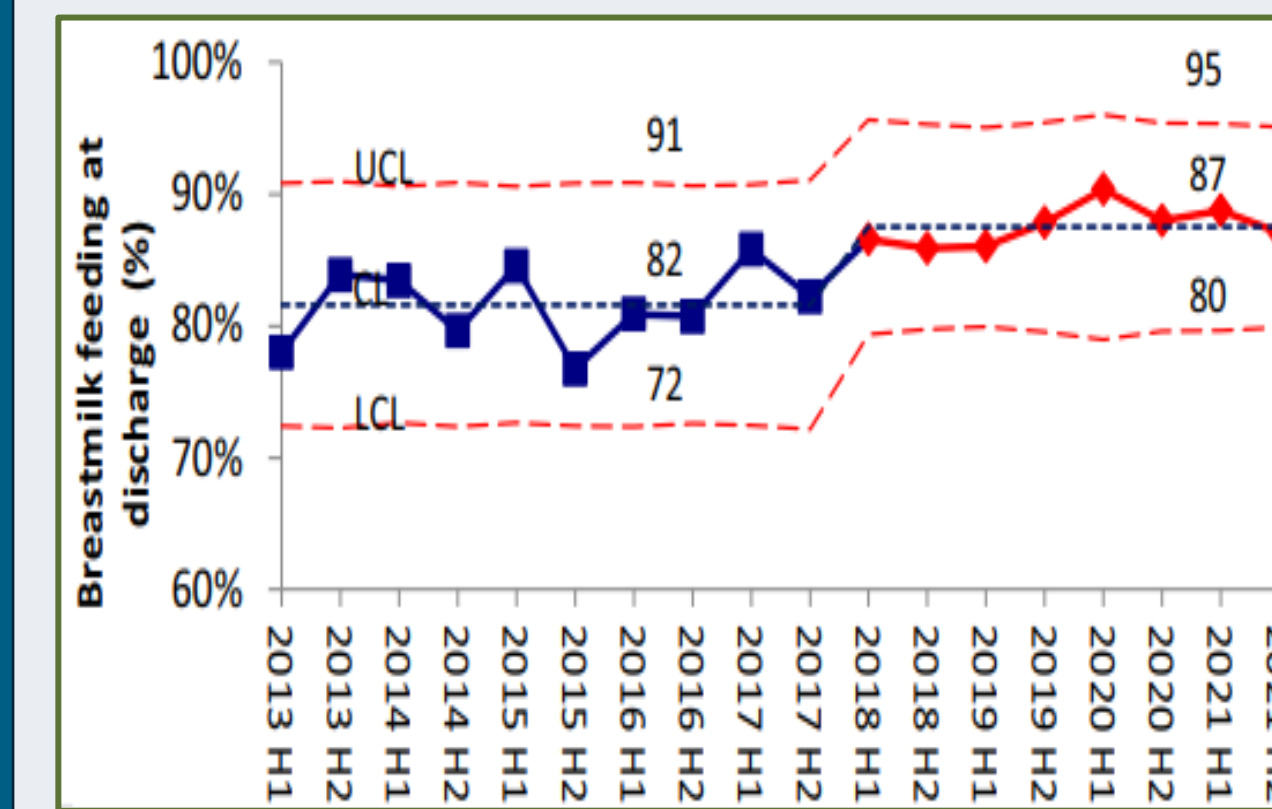
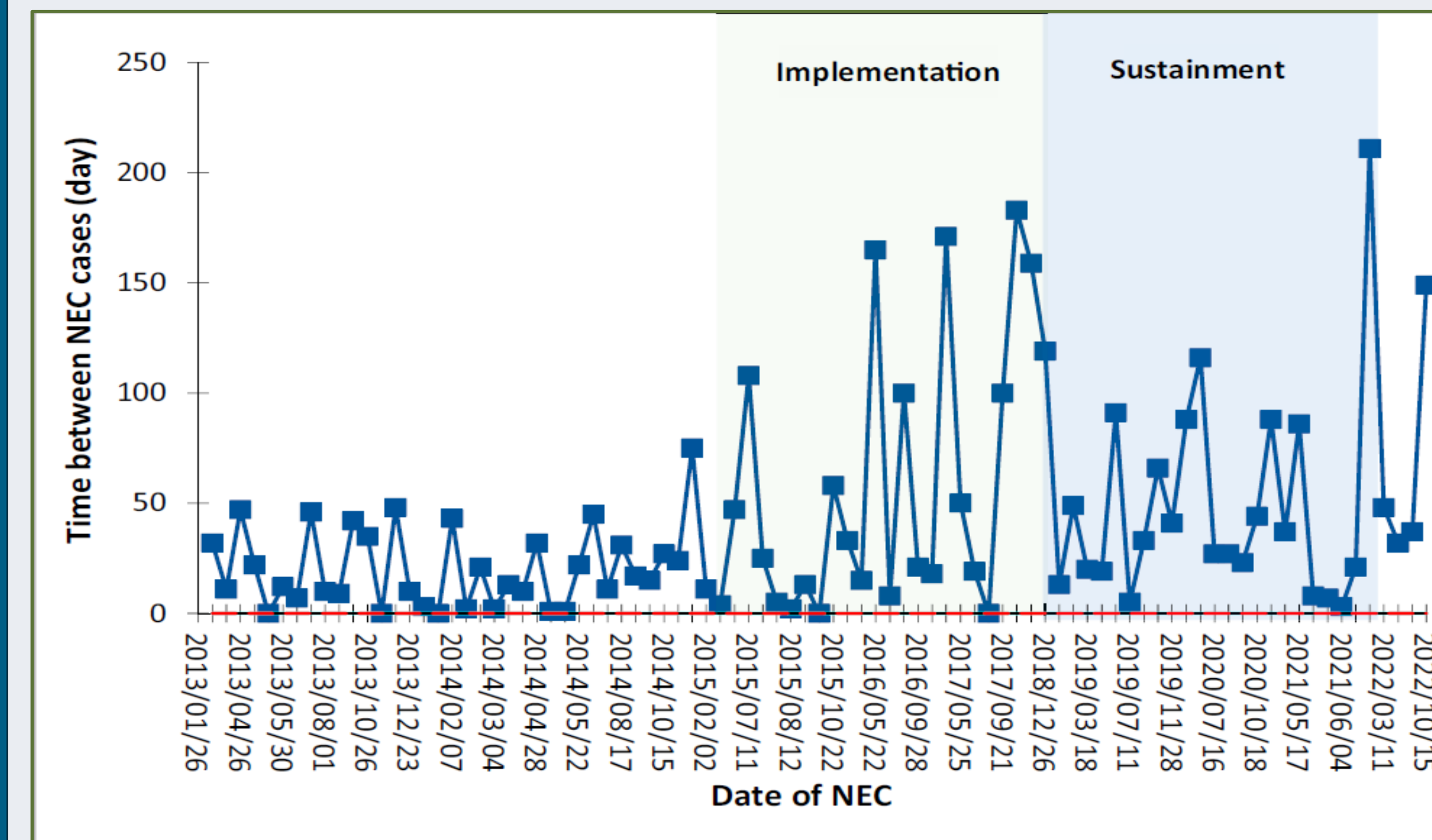


- Established educational material(s)
- Education for ALL staff
- Probiotic use for >1000g infants
- Anemia management
- Antenatal Lactation Consultant Consultations
- Antibiotic stewardship for EOS

Quality Improvement Initiatives to increase MOM, improve feeding regimen compliance, feed conservatively during blood transfusion & PDA treatment, and preventing intestinal microbial aberrations are associated with reduced NEC.



### Results



### Learnings

- Multidisciplinary practice guidelines (bundles) resulted in sustained NEC rates  $\leq 2\%$
- Project also resulted in:
  - Increased breastmilk usage at discharge
  - Fewer days to reach full enteral feeding
  - Fewer Parenteral Nutrition days
  - Shorter duration of empirical antibiotics
  - Higher percentage of decreased NEC in Black infants

### Next Steps

- Population / ethnicity-based interventions to close the disparity gap between groups

Check out our publication in Pediatrics!

