

REASON WHY?

Within the pathology lab, slots are booked to utilise the surgical cut up bench for dissection. Due to the demand of these slots, it is important to have an efficient process to ensure timely and effective dissections can be achieved. Following a local audit, it was identified that over an average of 10 slots for each pathologist, small delays were amounting to an additional 50 minutes for various reasons, including, not having the correct items available to complete the process.

PLAN

Following an initial audit of the dissection process, the following reasons for delays were identified:

- Interruptions to the process locating items required to complete the process
- Staff member not available at the start of the slot (mainly applied to the first slot in the morning and lunchtime slots)

Having engaged with the team, the plan was to use "Set up Reduction" processes and 5S to ensure all items and staff were available at the start of each booked slot.



DO

During the testing phase, we first of all identified the "necessary" from the "unnecessary" to ensure only items required for the cutting process were allocated to the bench.

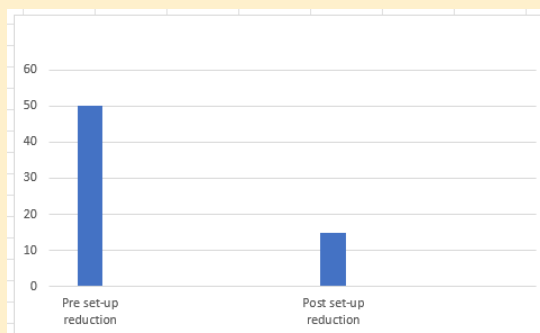
As part of the "simplify" process, low-cost trays were purchased to place the necessary items in a logical sequence; items included, inks, brushes and scalpel blades.

Feedback was given during this phase, with small adaptations made to ensure the process worked to meet the needs of the colleagues involved in the cutting process.



STUDY

Following the 5S and Set up Production techniques, the bench became better organised resulting in a large reduction in time taken to complete the process, with less interruptions.



The time reduced by **35 minutes** from using 5S and Set-up reduction processes. The time saved means to an extra 1-2 large surgical specimens can be trimmed, which in turn will improve reporting and TAT times.

Colleague feedback has been positive with fewer concerns and dissatisfaction being raised around delays due to missing equipment and how previous service users have left the dissection bench.

AIM | To improve the efficiency of the dissection process on the surgical cut up bench by reducing the time wastage/delays by 80% by 1st January 2025

ACT

Following this process, the team has agreed to **adopt** the "new look" bench as it has reduced time wasted.

The team will continue to **adapt** the process, in particular, providing clear labelling for the trays.

Overall, the bench is now much better organised and tidy, and has created a nicer and more efficient area to work in.

Following feedback from colleagues, a printed prompt sheet detailing everything that is needed on the dissection bench was also developed; this visual control acts as a reminder to all colleagues for what is required to set up at the start of the day.



Work will continue with back-room colleagues to encourage this way of working, and to support its sustainability. Colleagues will also be encouraged to share any other improvement suggestions to improve this area further.

The **next steps** are to embed this set up reduction and expectations of setting up the trimming bench, and roll out to the other benches as part of further colleague improvement projects.