

# Normothermia Management as a Component of a Surgical Site Infection Prevention Bundle at the Rockyview General Hospital, Calgary

## OUR SUCCESS

Average change in temperature from the *Day Surgery* unit to *Start of Case* was +0.5 °C for patients involved in the Hat and Sock initiative.

## Preoperative Normothermia Suggested Guidelines:

- *ACS NSQIP Best Practice Guidelines* – SSI Prevention Bundle: maintain normothermia, temperature >36.0° C.
- *Safer Healthcare Now!* – temperature between 36°C to 38°C pre-operatively, intraoperative and into the Post Anesthesia Recovery Unit.

## OUR PROBLEM:

Using internationally benchmarked data from participation in the National Surgical Quality Improvement Project (NSQIP), the Rockyview General Hospital quality improvement team focused on a rising trend of surgical site infections (SSI).

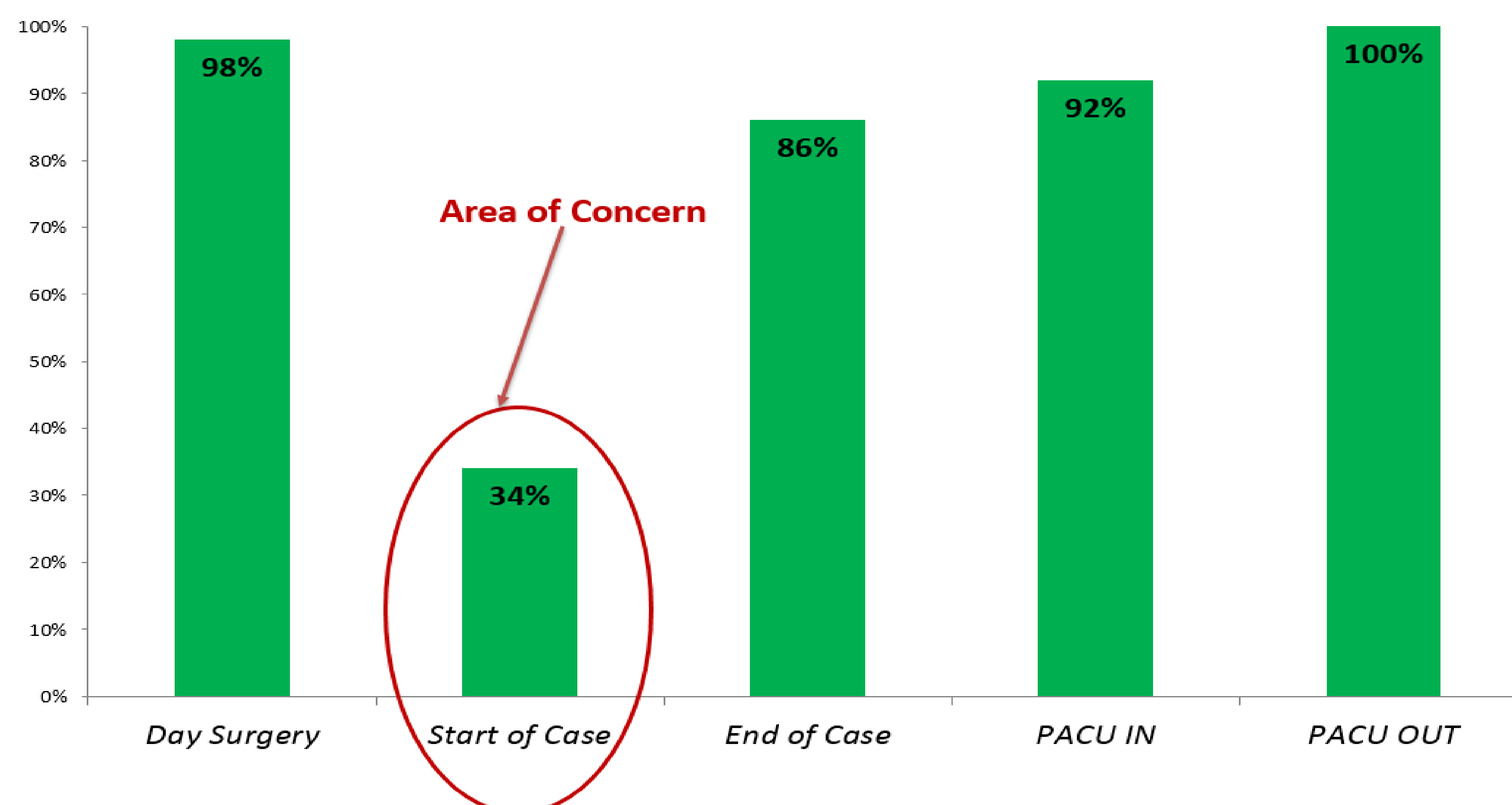
Using data from patient charts and temperature reviews of RGH operating rooms to understand the current state, demonstrated the need to increase patients body temperature during the pre-operative period.

## Post Hat and Sock Initiative:

- 100 surgical cases were abstracted to obtain temperature variances for patients included in the “Hat and Sock “ initiative.
- 78% of the patients had a body temperature at the start of case that fell within the suggested temperature standards.

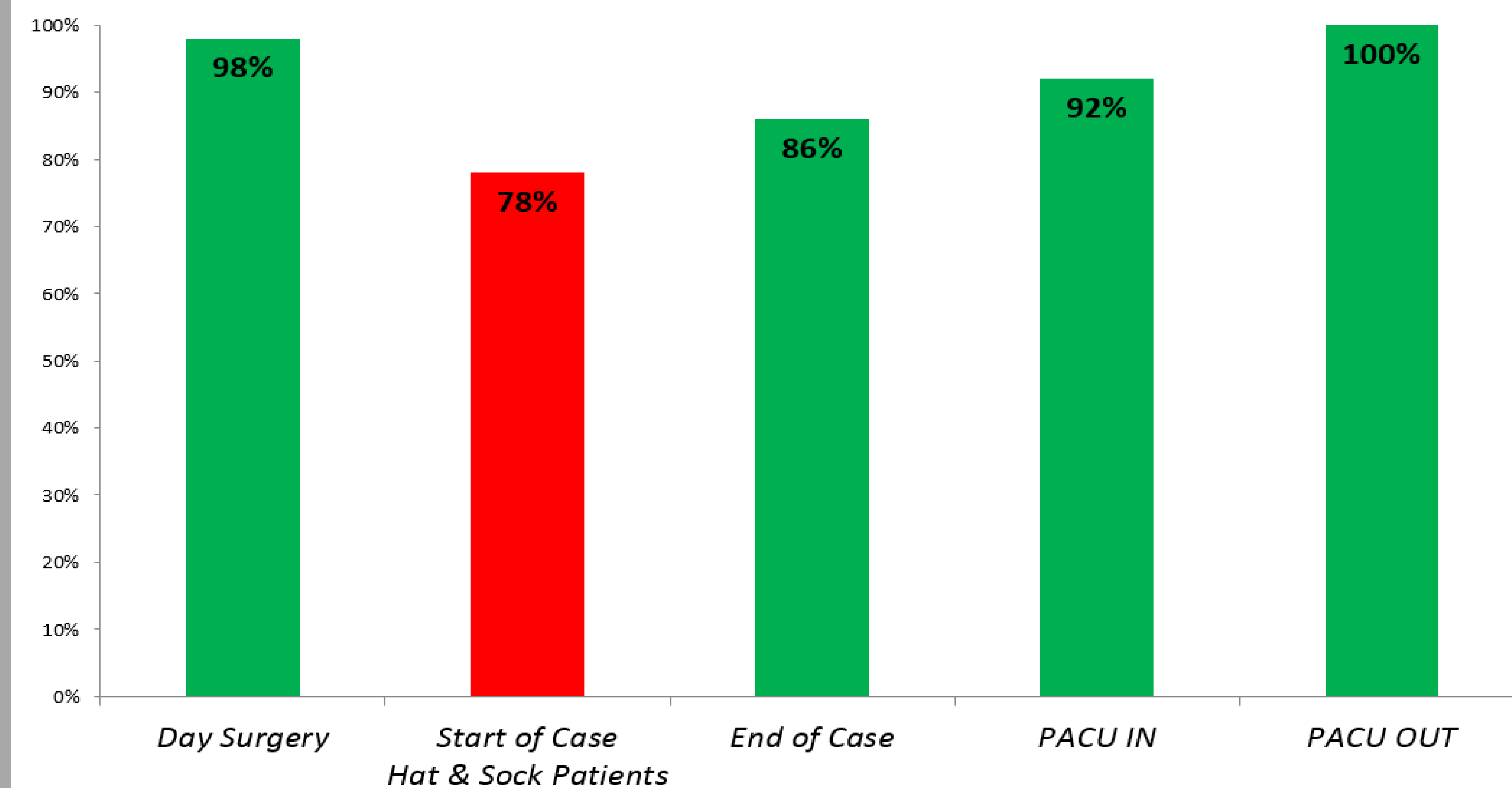
## PRE HAT AND SOCK INITIATIVE

% of Cases that fell WITHIN the suggested temperature standards (36.0°C – 38.0°C)



## POST HAT AND SOCK INITIATIVE

% of Cases that fell WITHIN the suggested temperature standards (36.0°C – 38.0°C)



## SOLUTION:

Surgical patients would receive a bouffant (hat) and a pair of socks to reduce the chance of decline in body temperature preoperatively. These would be applied to the patient during their pre surgical preparation in day surgery and remain on until the post-operative period.

## CHALLENGE

- Rolling out initiatives that the QI team perceived as a small change, taught us that staff may see things differently and have varying concerns.

## LESSONS

- Focus on sharing the message around the reasons for change with staff.
- The importance of using a communication strategy going forward.