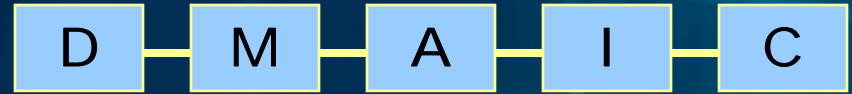


# ***The Use Of Systems Engineering Tools To Improve Processes in Healthcare:***

## ***Six Sigma and Lean Improvement Methodologies as they Apply to Healthcare***

# Speaker



## Contact info

***Muhanad Hirzallah***

***Quality Improvement Black Belt***

***Quality Management Services***

***Mayo Clinic***

***200 First St. SW***

***Rochester, MN, USA***

***(507) 266-3216 (phone)***

***(507) 255-9689 (fax)***

***Hirzallah.Muhanad@mayo.edu***

# Engineering the Healthcare System

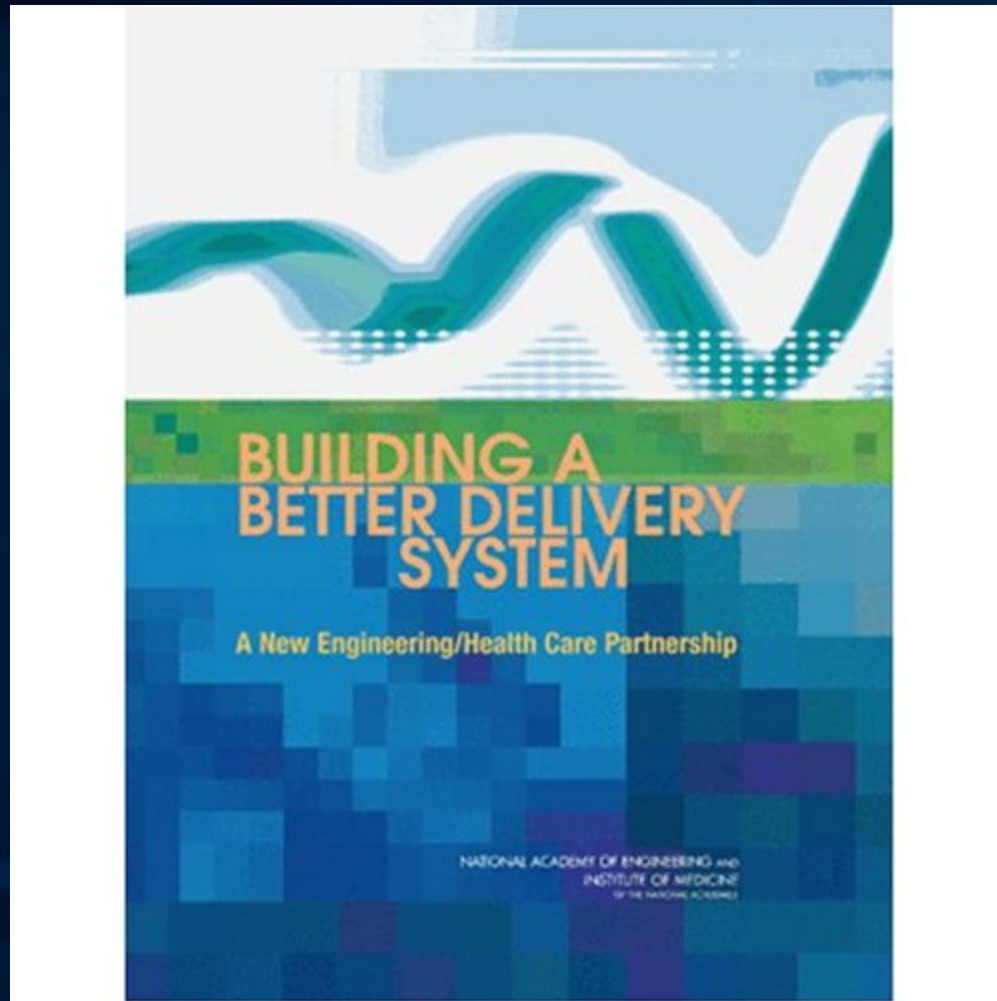
D

M

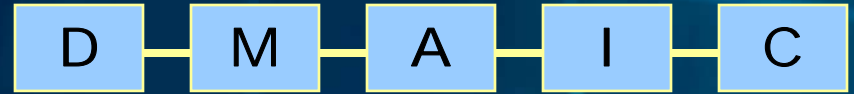
A

I

C



# Mayo Clinic's Quality Experience



- **Process Improvement Section within the Quality Management Services Department**
- **The Quality Academy: now part of Mayo Clinic College of Medicine.**
- **Mayo Clinic's System – Wide Initiatives:**
  - **IRB review cycle time**

# The IRB experience

D

M

A

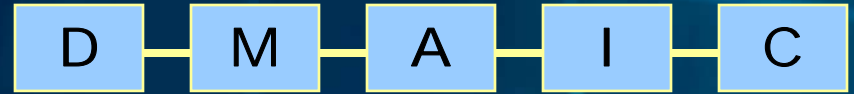
I

C

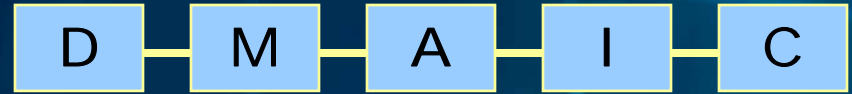
- Under federal regulations, an Institutional Review Board (IRB) is a constituted group formally designated to review and monitor research involving human subjects.
- Its' work must comply with the Federal Wide assurance agreement with the government in order to receive federal funding for research.
- Delays in making a decision may result in loss of funding and delays in patients being offered access to potential new treatments.



# Problem & Goal



- The IRB turnaround time for protocol review has been identified as a source of dissatisfaction by the researchers and the IRB Staff.
- On average, the review of protocols took 38 days. The customers expect a more predictable and timely turnaround.
- The goal is to reduce the protocol turnaround time to no more than 21 days, while maintaining the IRB responsibility to uphold the regulations.



## Team members:

Project Sponsor : Chair, Research Administration

Process Owner : IRB Medical Director

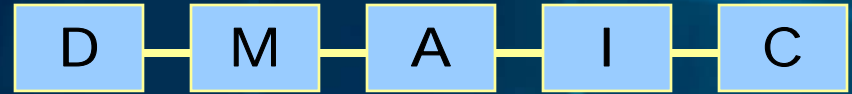
Core Team: IRB Administrator

Measurement Coordinator / IRB  
Operations Manager

Project Manager

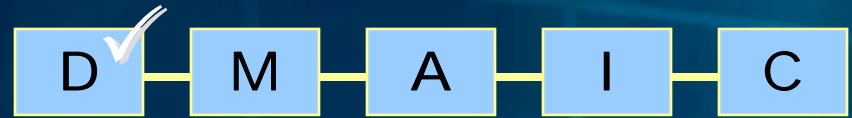
Process Improvement Expert

# Results



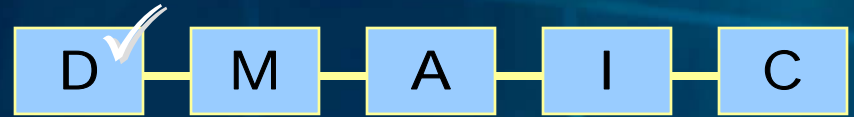
<u>Metrics:</u>	<u>Before</u>	<u>After</u>
Average Cycle time	38d	16d
- 21 days compliance	27%	83%
For new submission		
Full board		
<hr/>		
Average CT (w/out PI)	31d	11d
- 21 days compliance	38%	100%
For new submission		
Full board		





# DMAIC Methodology

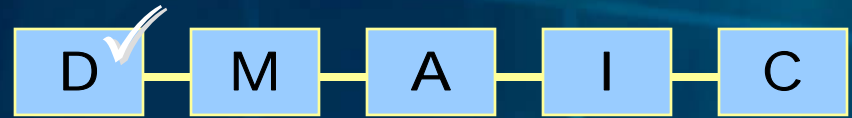




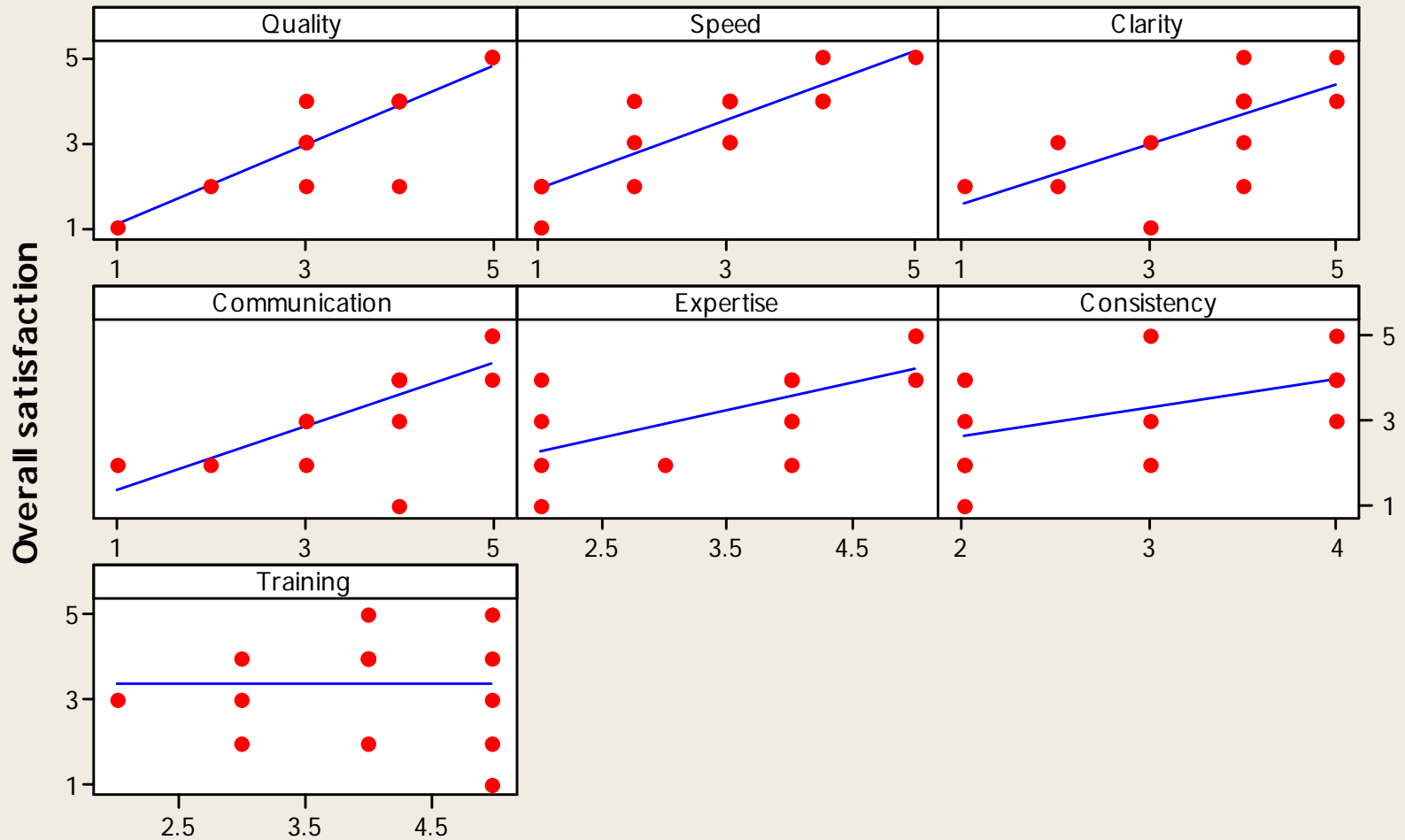
# Project Charter

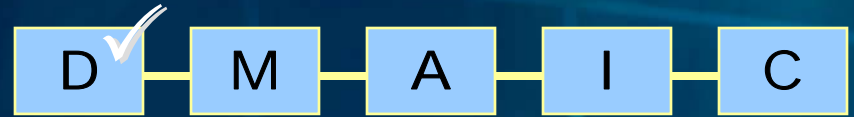
- **An explanation for the project**
- **Goals and desired results in measurable terms**
- **Project plan and milestones**
- **Roles and responsibilities**

# Survey of Investigators



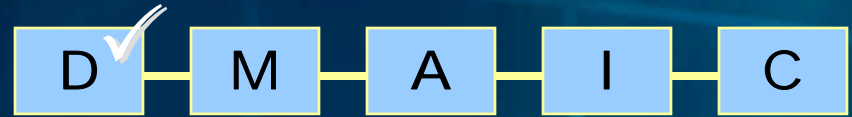
Scatterplot of Overall Satisfaction vs the Dimensions



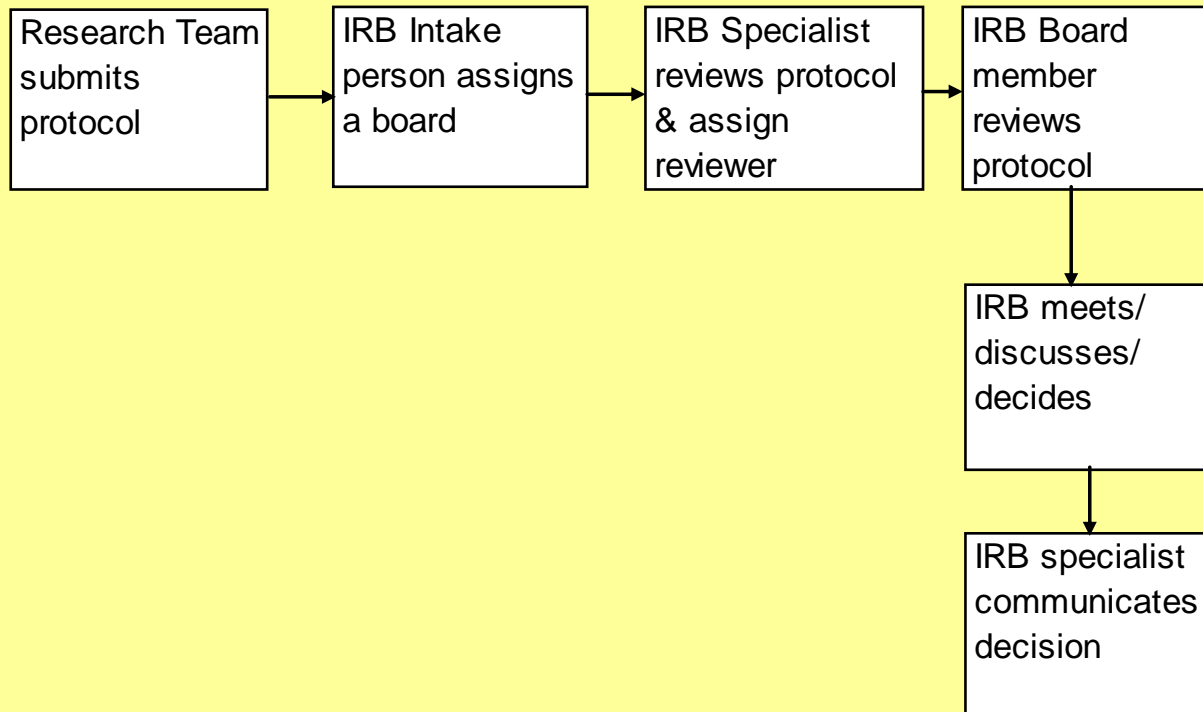


# Potential Impact for the Customer

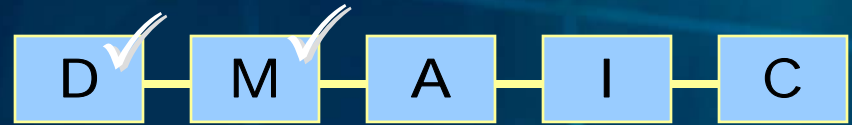
- **Patients / Participants**  
Greater access to clinical trials
- **Investigator**  
Improved satisfaction
- **Industry**  
Improved satisfaction
- **IRB**  
Enhanced compliance  
Improved Morale
- **Federal Agencies**  
Enhanced compliance



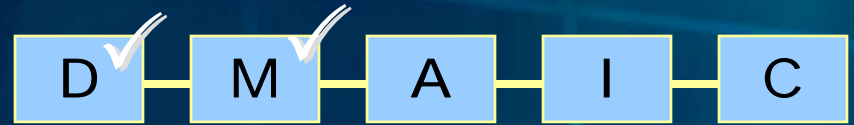
# High Level Process Mapping



# Measure



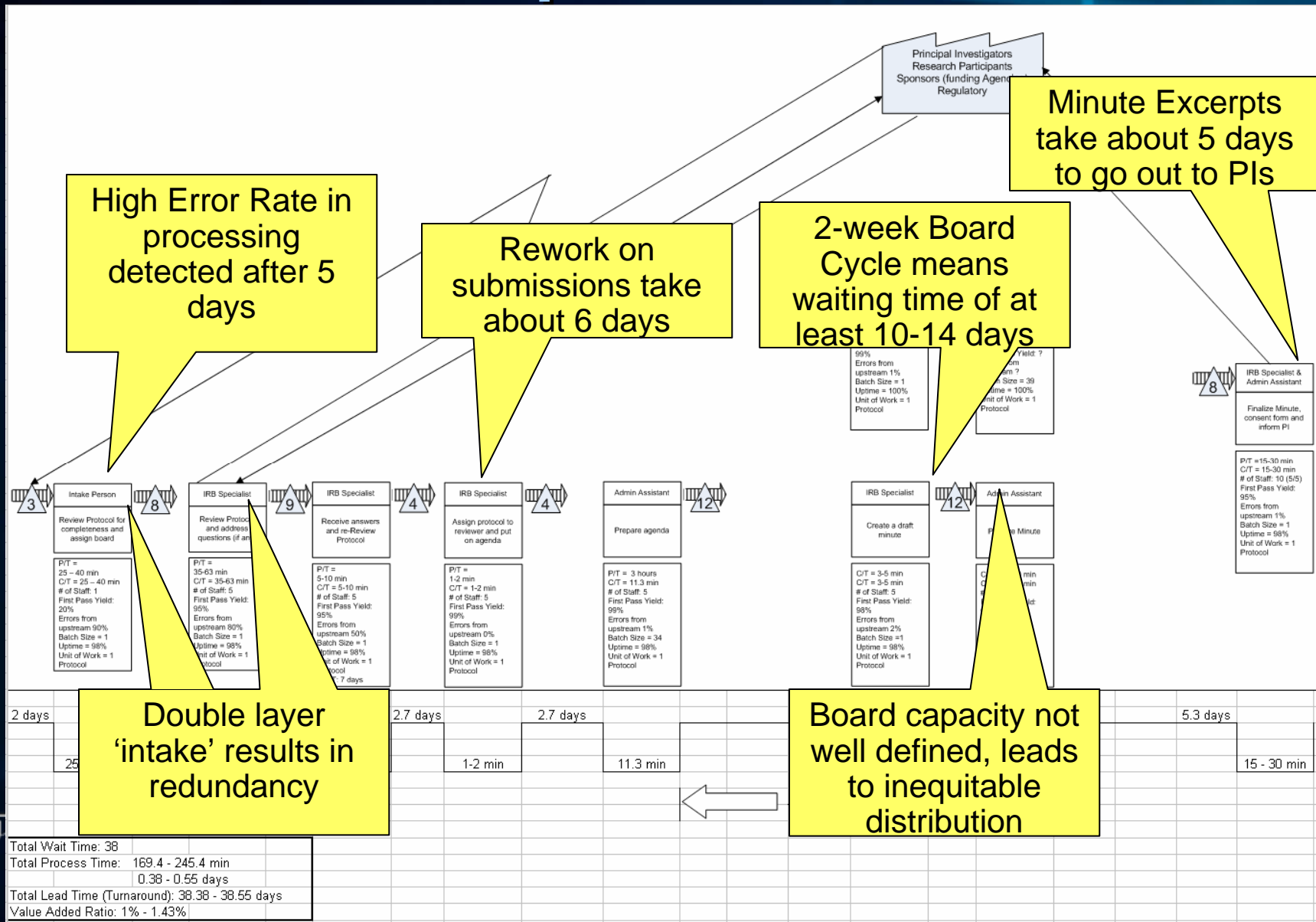
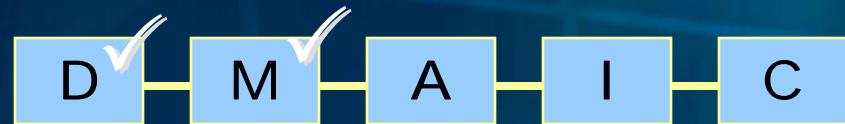


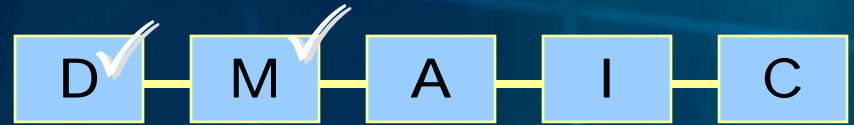


# Value Stream Mapping Tool

- **Examine the flow of information and work**
- **Locate the largest sources of waste**
- **Envision a less wasteful state**
- **Develop plans for future activities**

# Current State Value Stream Map





## Results of the Current State Value Stream Map:

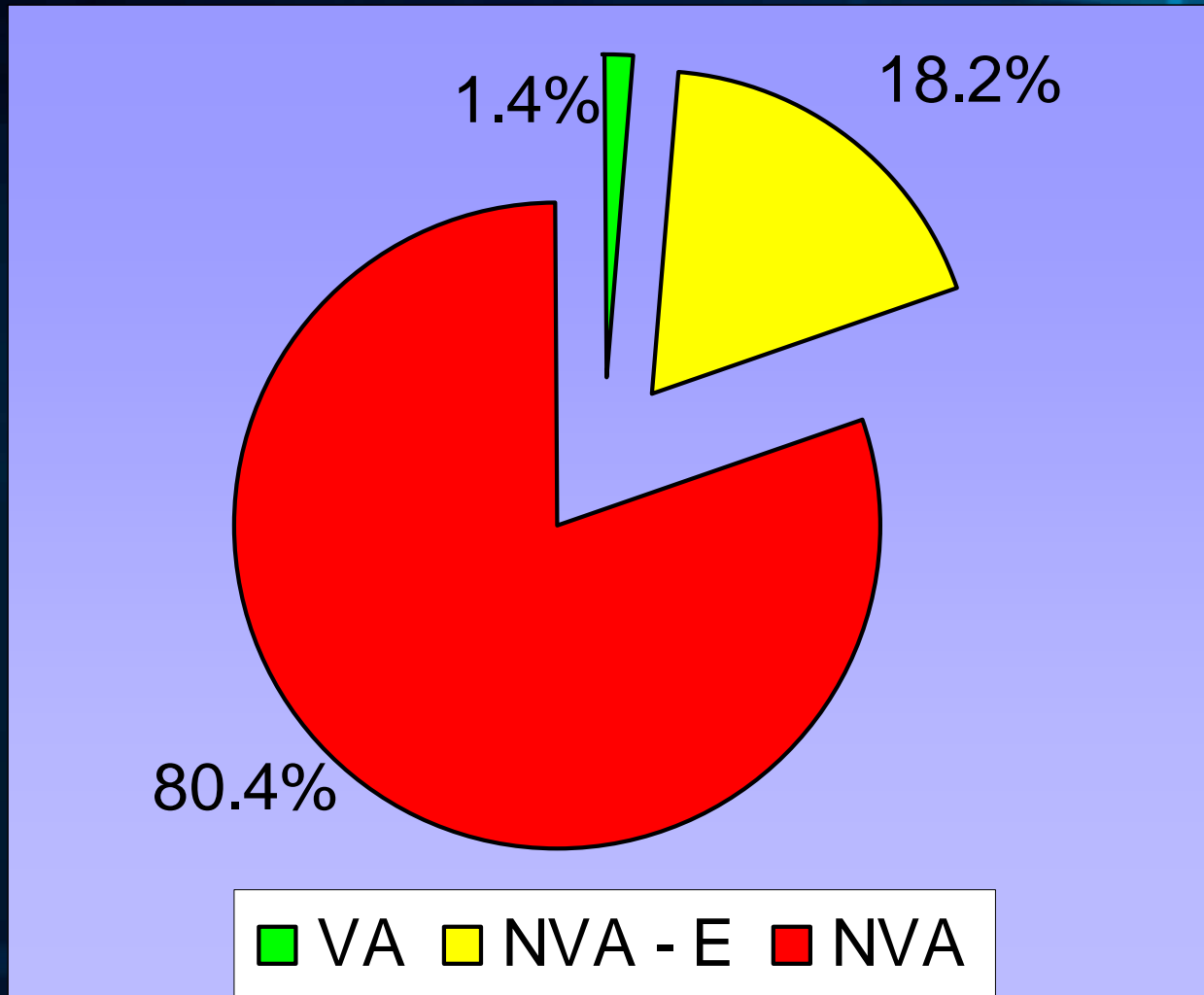
Total Wait Time: 38 days

Total Process Time: 169.4 - 245.4 min  
0.38 - 0.55 days

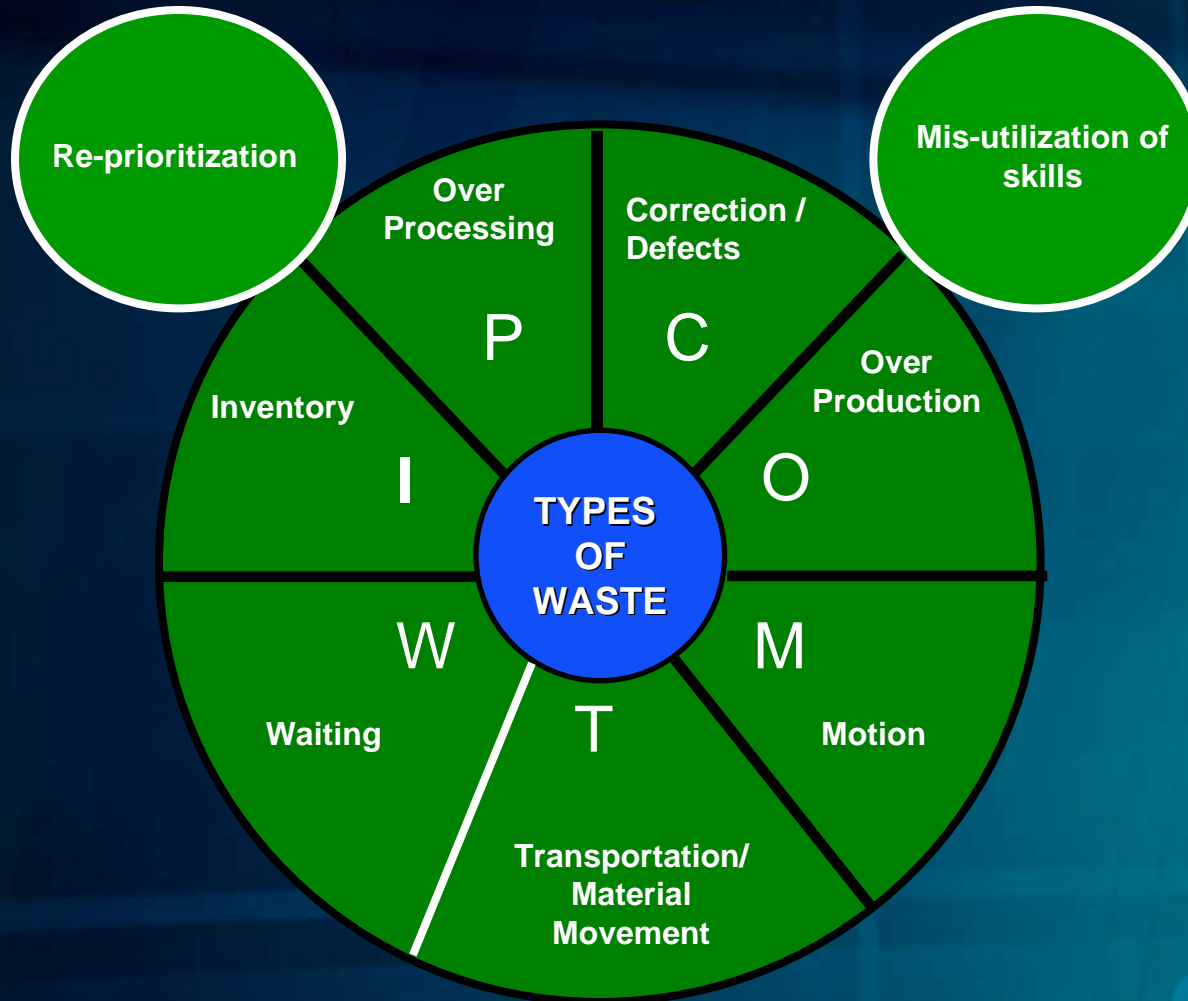
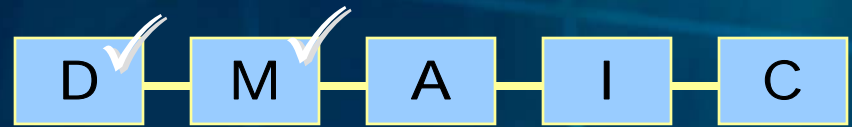
Total Lead Time (Turnaround): 38.38 - 38.55 days

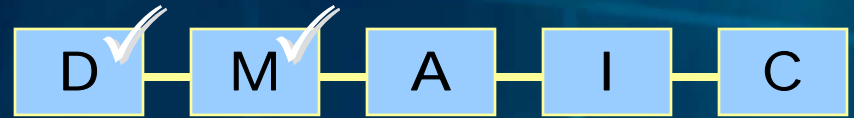
**Value Added Ratio: 1% - 1.43%**

D ✓ M ✓ A I C



# IRB Wastes



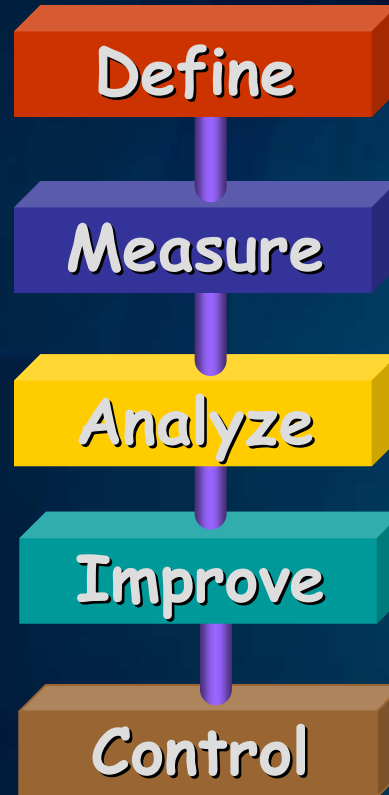
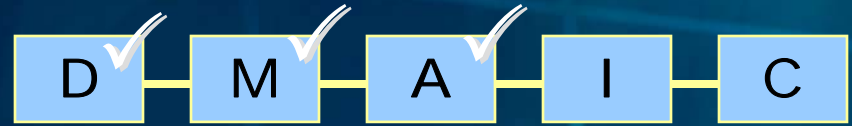


## Data Collection

- **# of IRB submissions**
- **# of submission outside the 21d target.**
- **Time to process a new submission**
- **Errors**



# Analyze



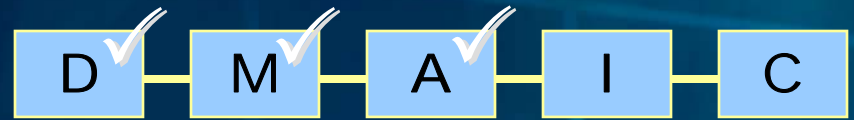
Define:

Measure:

Analyze:

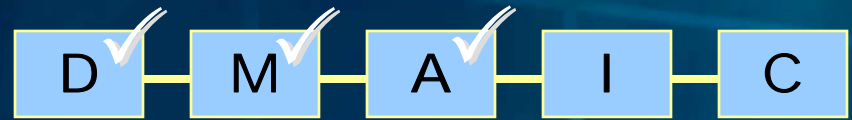
Improve:

Control:



# Analysis for New Submissions

- Working d/yr =  
 $365 - \text{weekends} - \text{PTO} = 230 \text{ d/yr}$
- Annual Demand of new full protocols for yr 2005  
 $= 345$
- Daily Demand =  
 $345/230 = 1.5 \text{ protocols/day}$
- Work time a day =  
 $(8 \text{ hrs} \times 60 \text{ min}) - (2 \times 15 \text{ min Breaks}) = 450 \text{ minutes}$

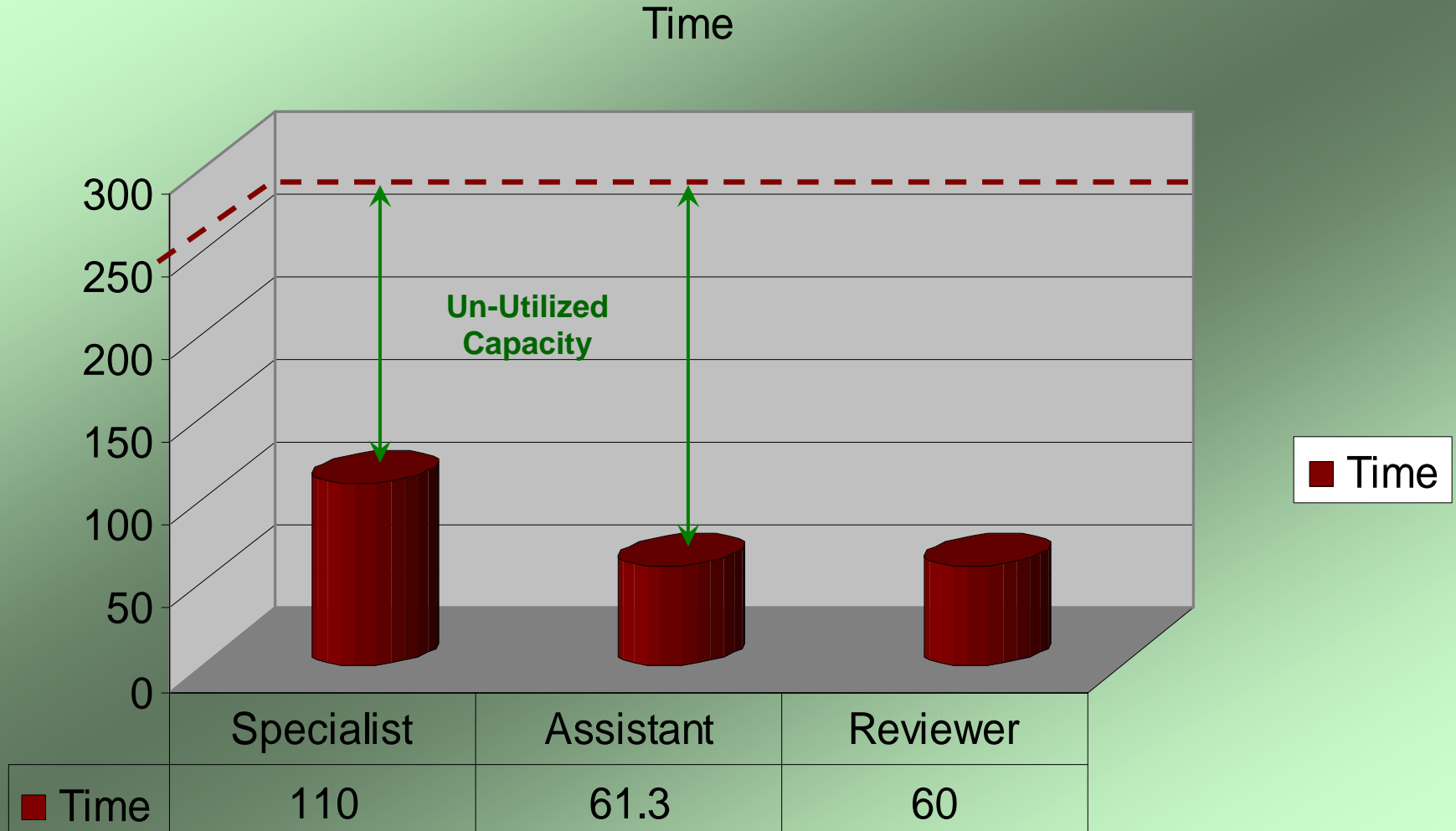
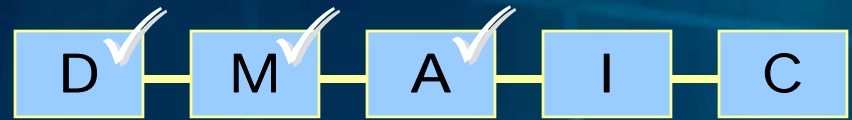


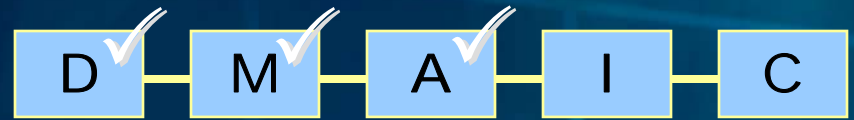
# Analysis for New Submissions

- **Takt\* = ( 450 min/ day) / (1.5 protocols/ day) = 300 min/ protocol**
- **Variation adjusted Takt = (.85)X(300)= 255 min**

\*The pace (*German*)

# Operator Chart



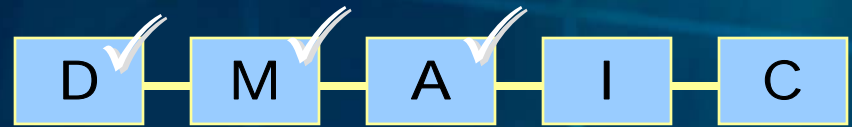


## Analyze Phase

- Intake person has a very low yield (i.e. quality)
- IRB has more capacity than the demand
- RCA for errors required.

**Conclusion: Opportunities for improvement**

# Improve



Define

Define:

Measure

MMeasure:

Analyze

Analyze:

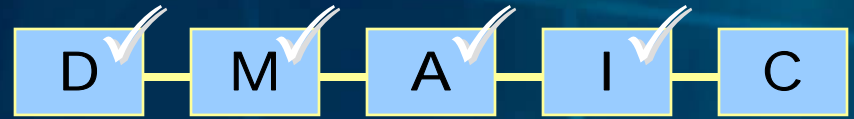
Improve

Improve:

Control

Control:

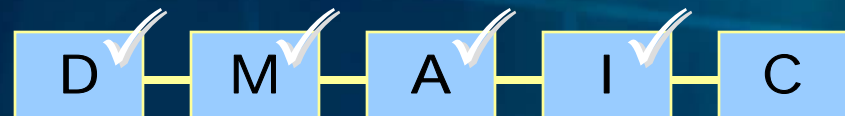




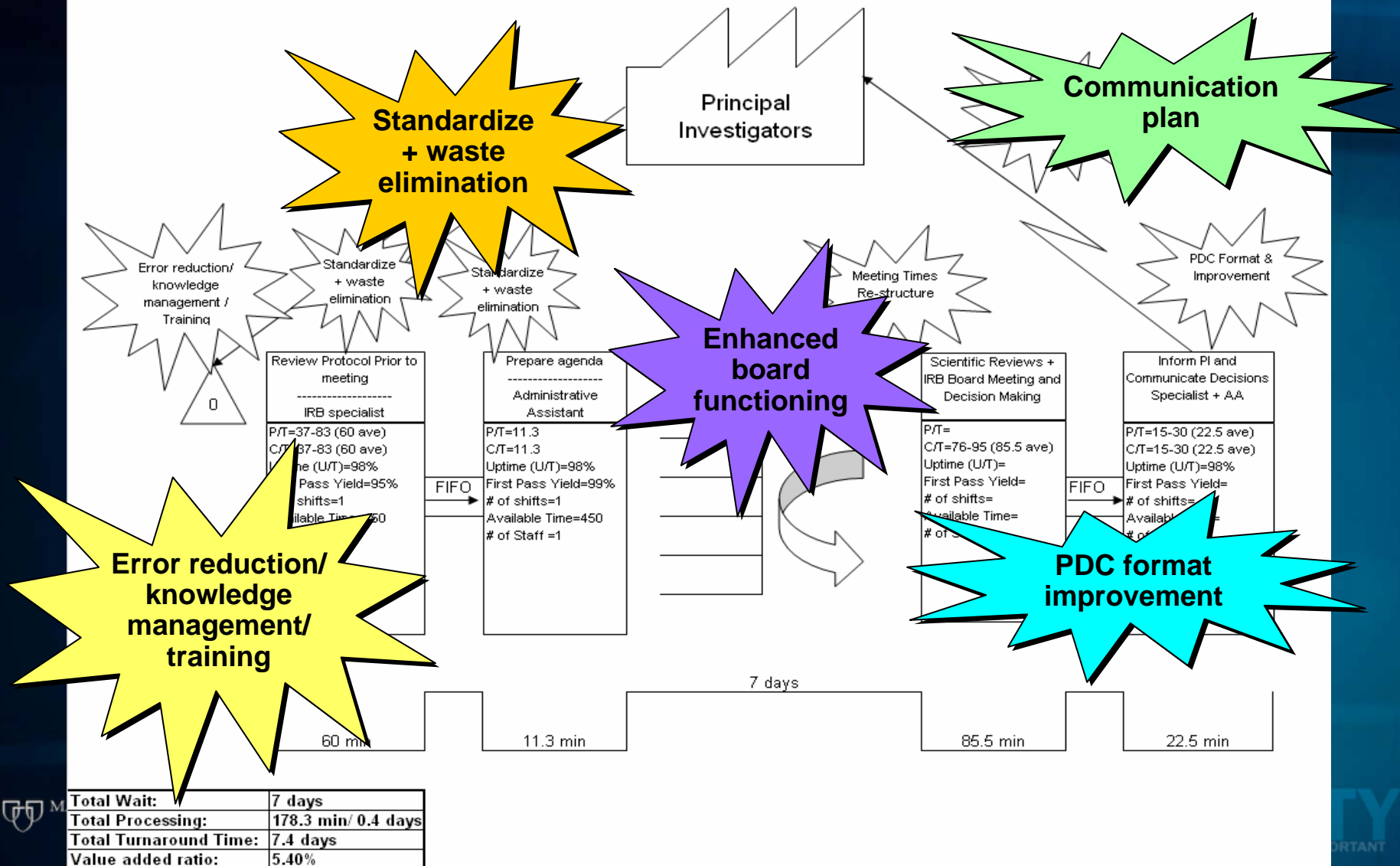
# Brainstorm Improvements

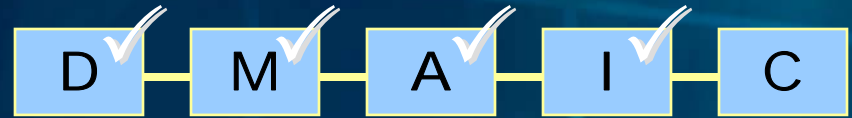
- **Eliminate the Intake function**
- **IRB Specialist reviews 1st**
- **Standardize work elements.**
- **Mistake proofing to reduce errors.**
- **Communicate with the Research audience**
- **Continuously improve**
  - Seek feedback from customers**
  - Analyze data**

# Future State map



Future state Map  
IRB - Process

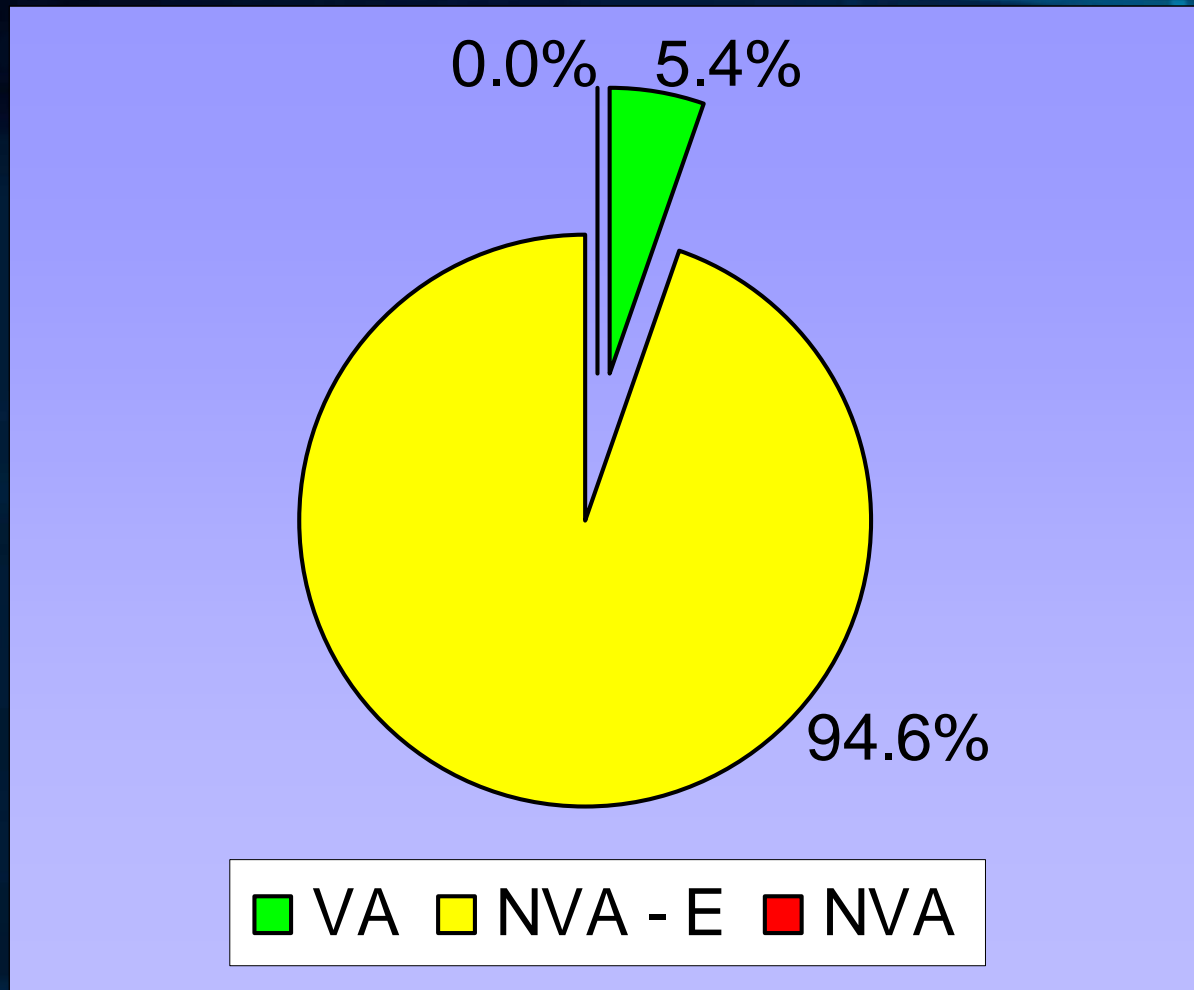


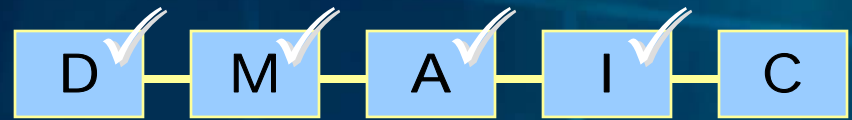


## Future State map results

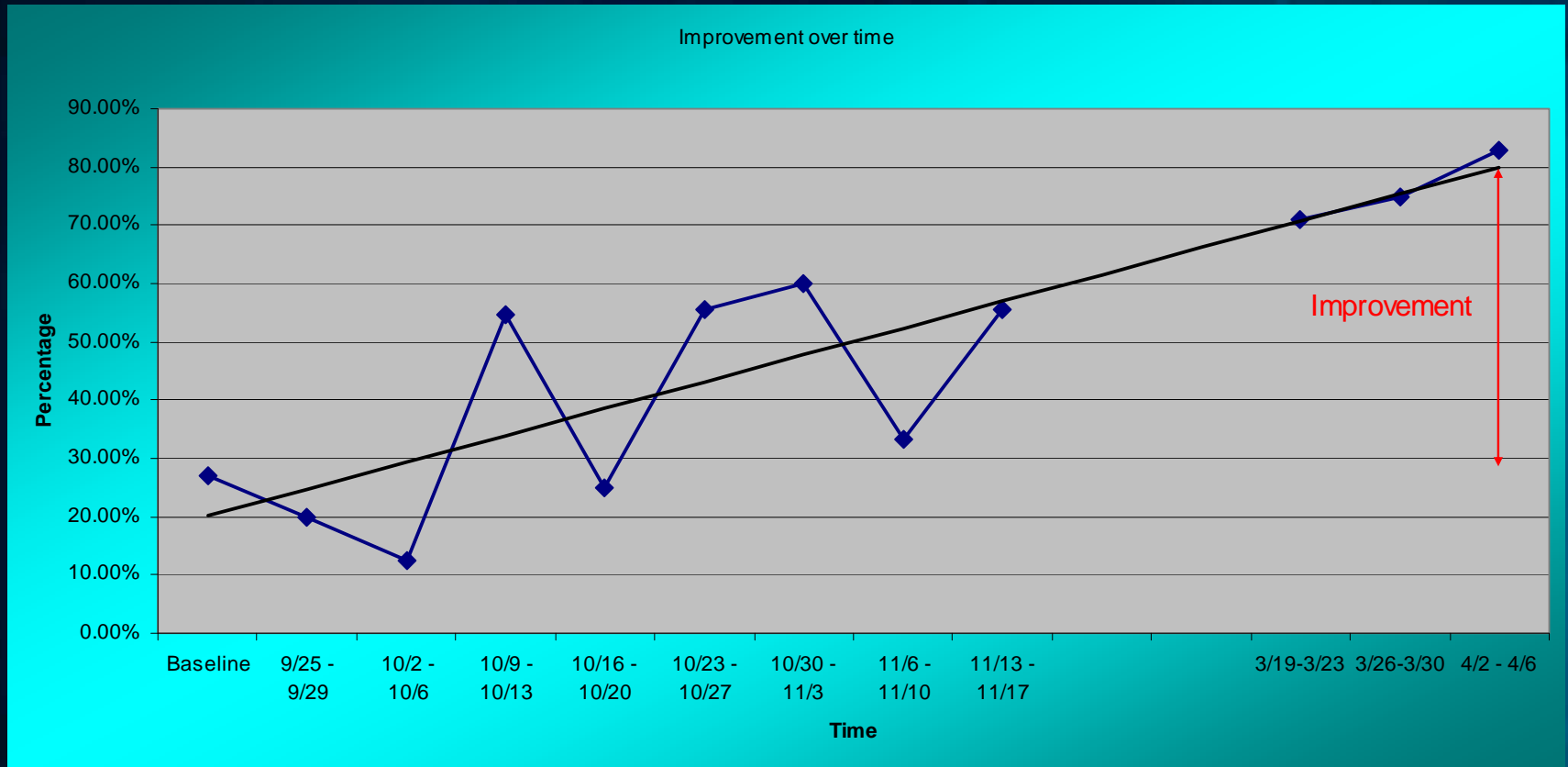
<b>Total Wait:</b>	<b>7 days</b>
<b>Total Processing:</b>	<b>178.3 min/ 0.4 days</b>
<b>Total Turnaround Time:</b>	<b>7.4 days</b>
<b>Value added ratio:</b>	<b>5.40%</b>

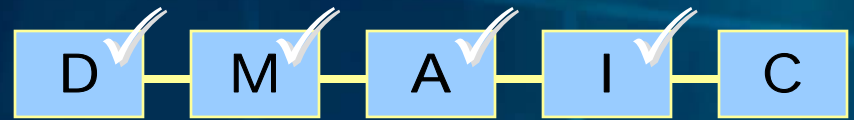
D ✓ M ✓ A ✓ I ✓ C





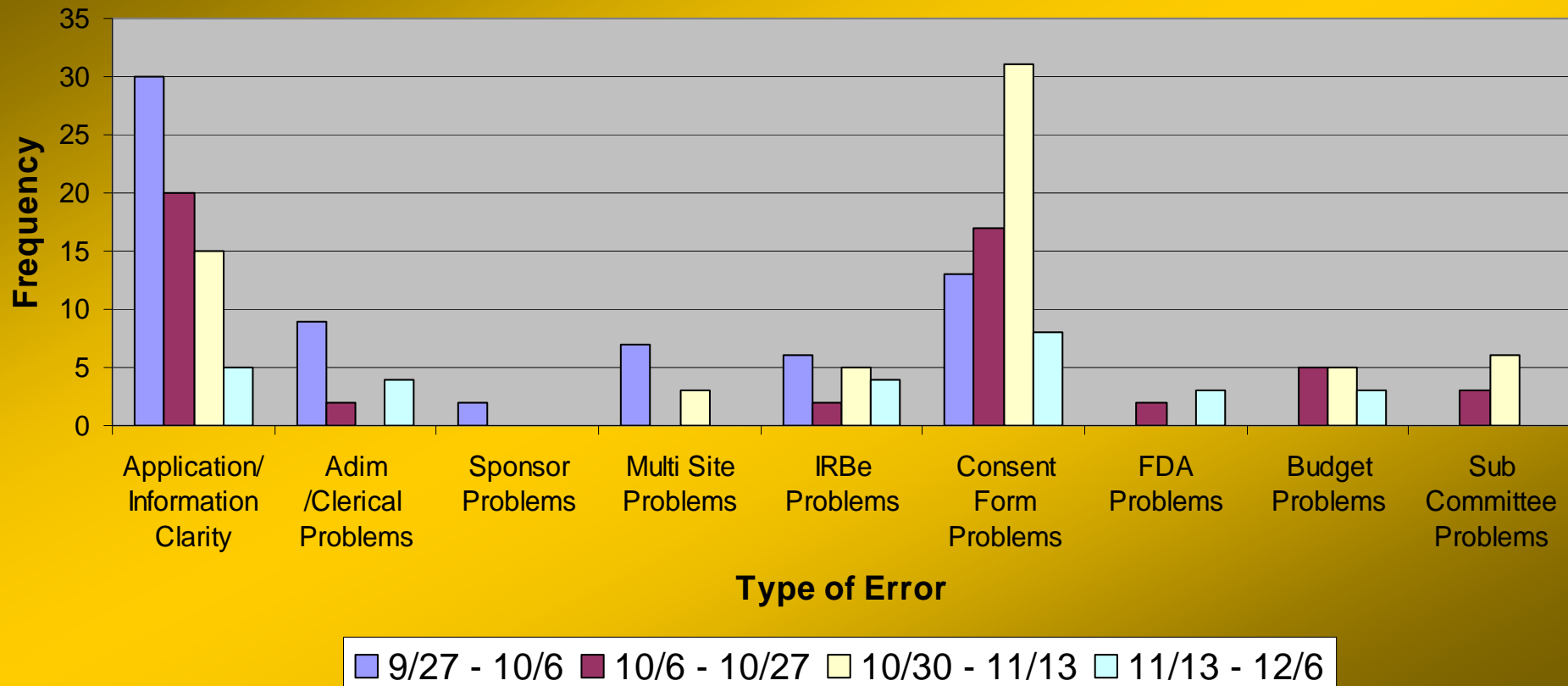
# Validate Improvement – Compliance





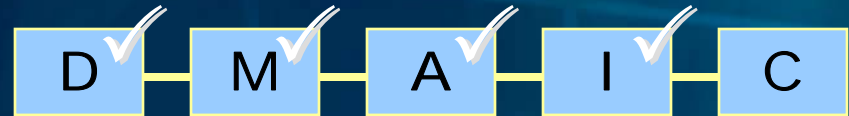
# Validate Improvements – Error Frequency

Error Frequency over time

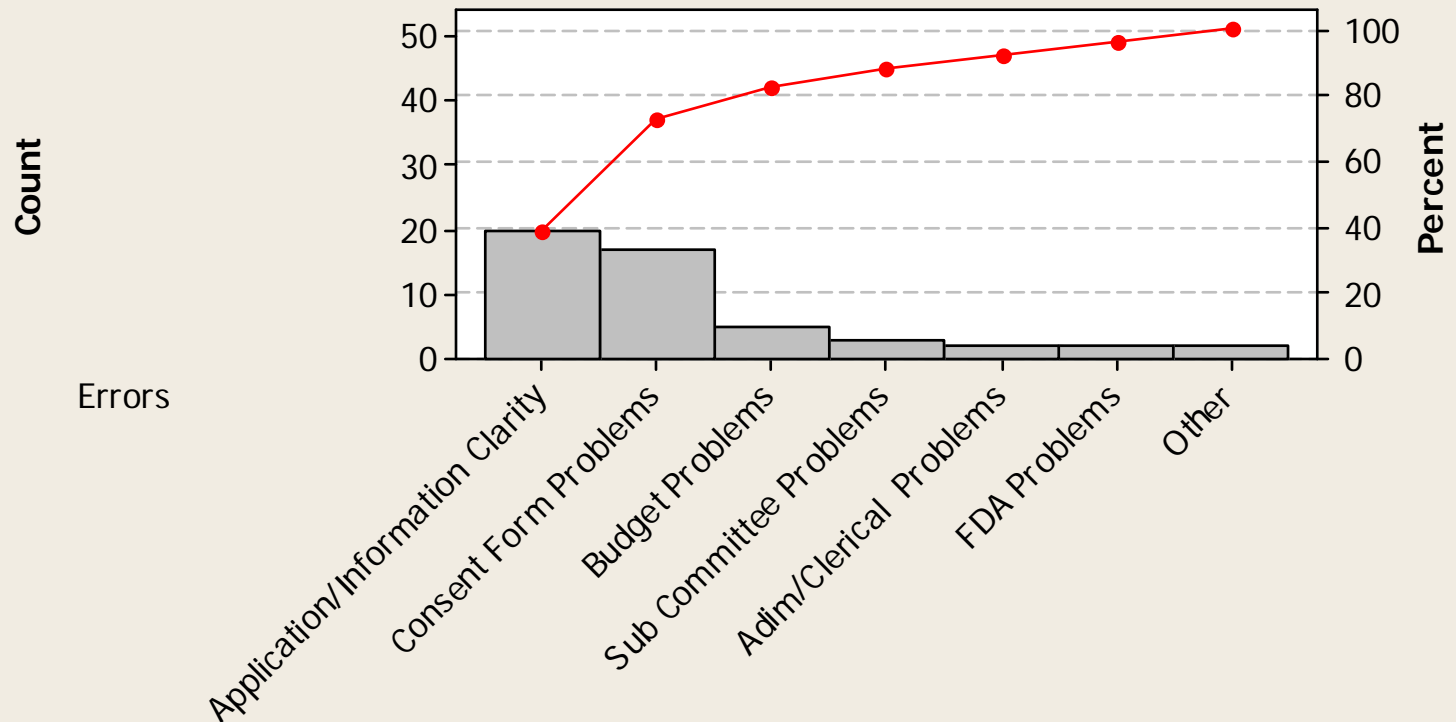




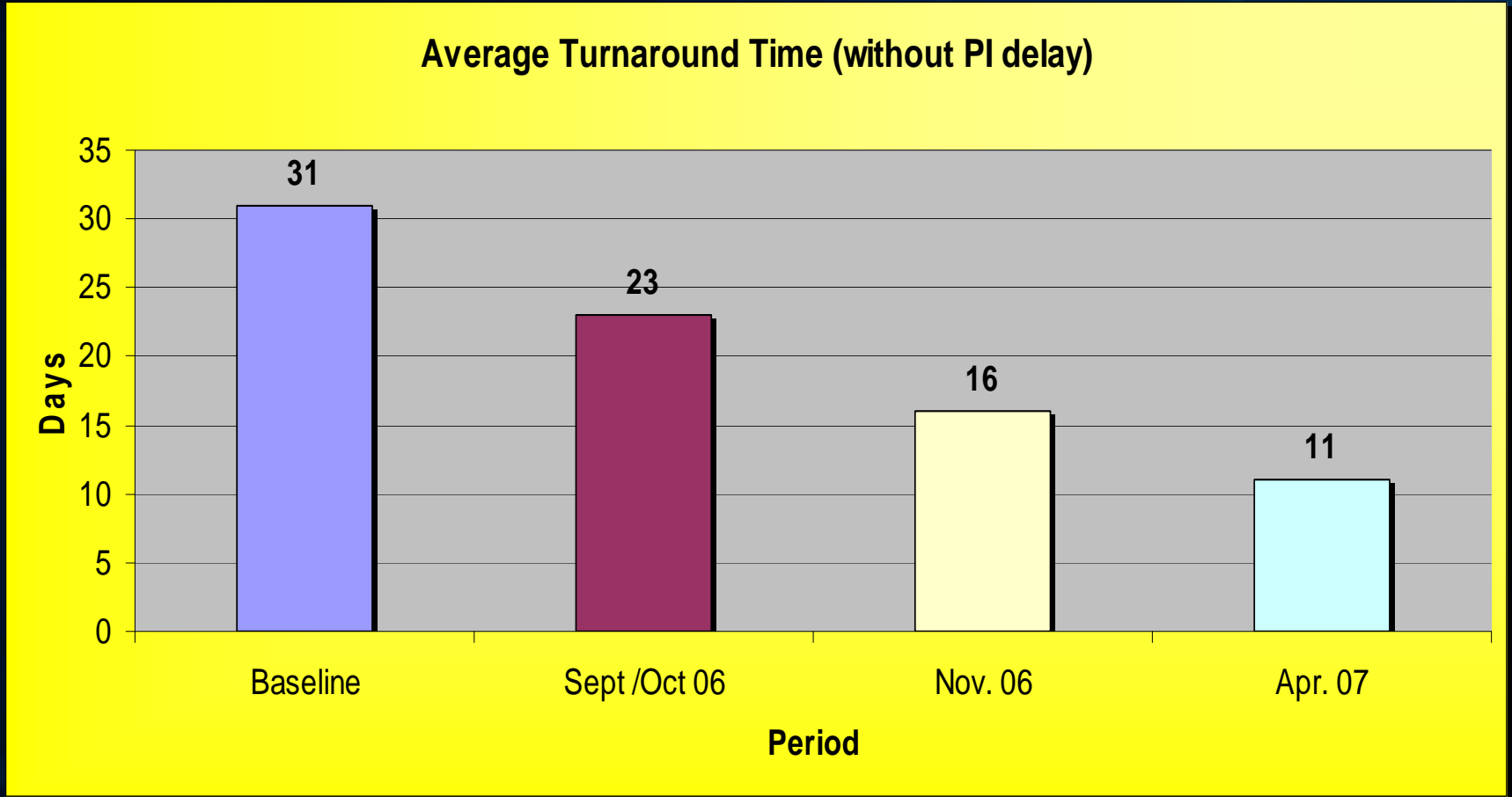
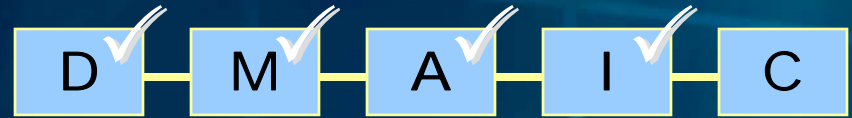
# Pareto Chart for Errors

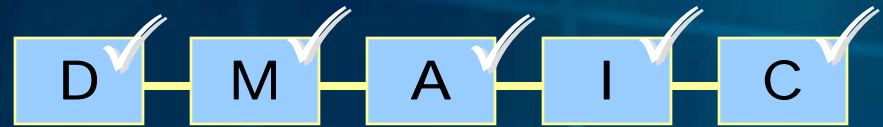


Pareto Chart for Errors (10/6 - 10/27)



# Average Days Turnaround of New Full Board Protocols





# Control



# Control Charts

D

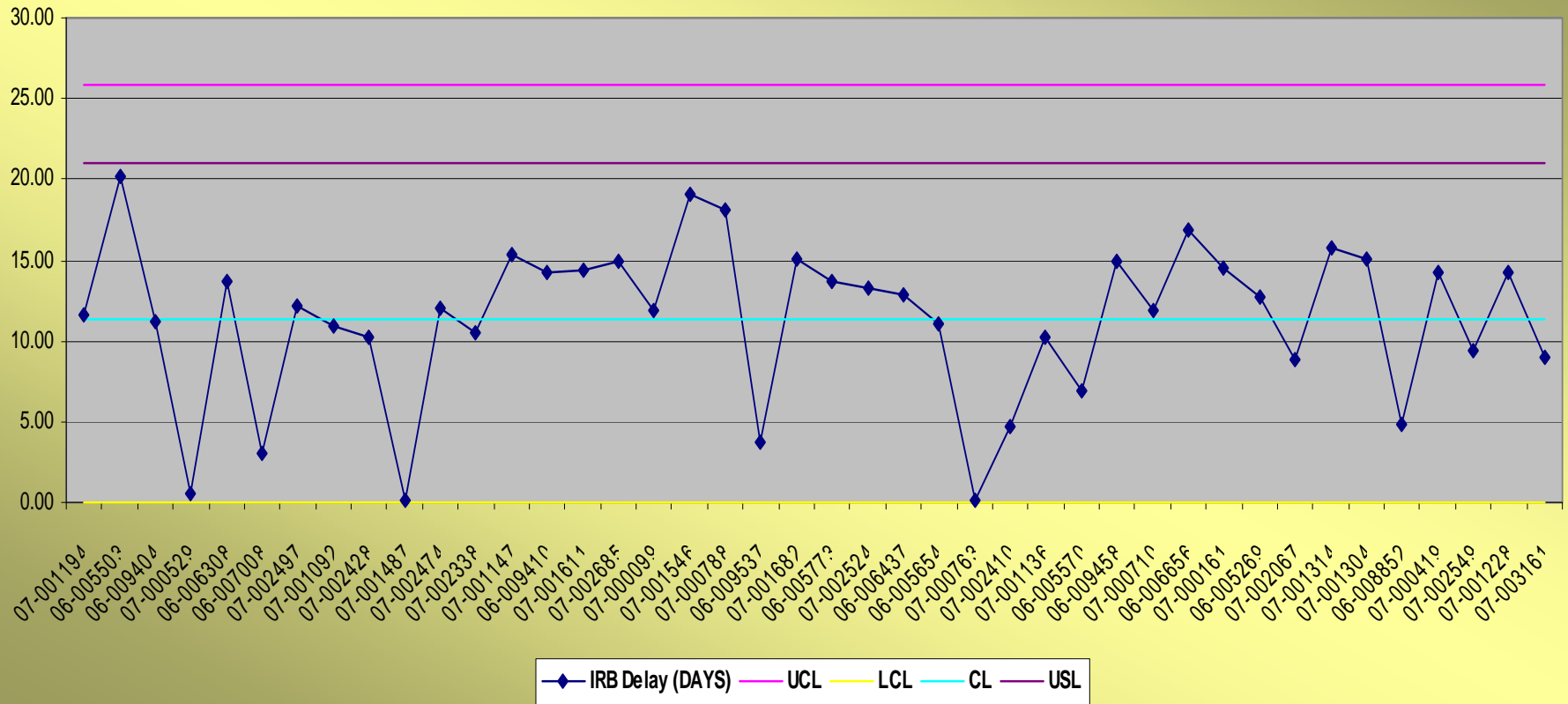
M

A

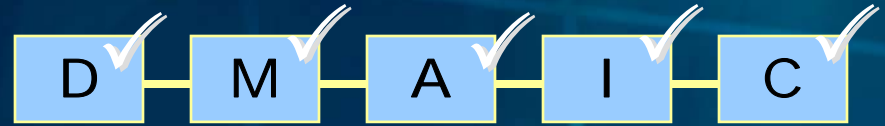
I

C

IRB Full Board Control Chart



# Control Phase



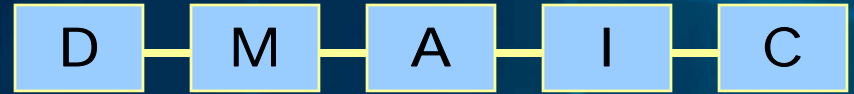
- **Consistent and improved process**
- **Within control: Control Charts**
- **Control plan**
  - **Measurement System Assurance: Including monitor (Alerts) to ensure the process success.**
  - **Reaction plan.**

# Lessons to share

- DMAIC proved to be effective in Healthcare processes including administrative/business processes.
- Research Administration, as a result launched 3 system-wide process improvement teams and established their own “Research Quality Office” recently.
- Other institutions benchmark with Mayo IRB

# Lessons to share **D**—**M**—**A**—**I**—**C**

- **Staff resistance to change!**
- **Information Technology (IT) support**
- **Process owners commitment is critical to the success of the initiative.**
- **The right skills on the team.**
- **Customer and External effect.**



**Thank You.**

**Questions?**