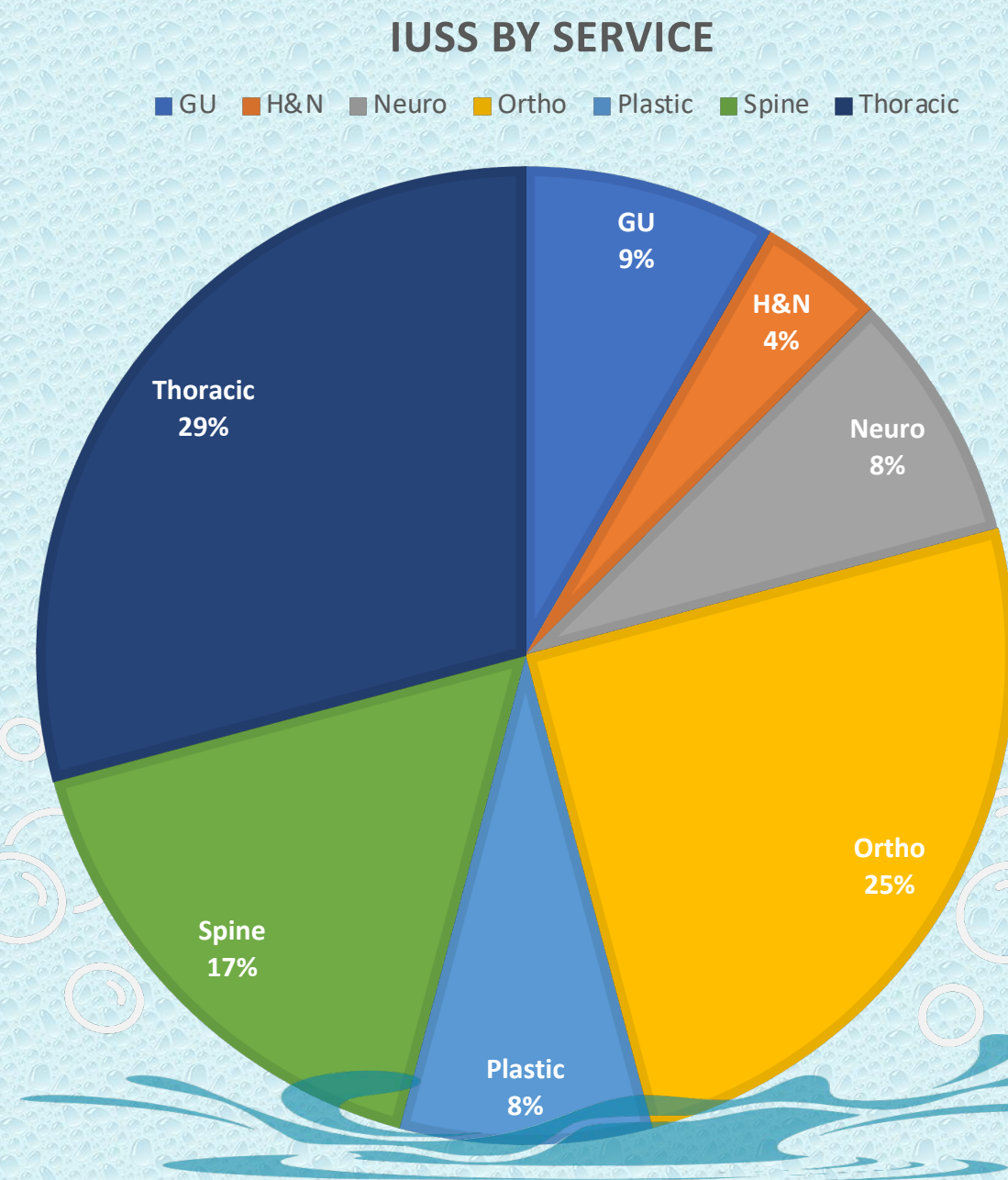


Problem

Surgical Site Infections, SSIs, are a risk for all patients that undergo surgical procedures. At Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC), management of surgical instrument usage has been challenged by increasing case volume, multiple combined procedures, advancements in surgical approaches and decreasing room turnover time.



Immediate-Use Steam Sterilization (IUSS) or “flash” sterilization had a place in the workflow for several years and was an issue of great concern:

- Support one-of-a kind instrumentation
- Resolution for contaminated instruments without available replacements
- Facilitate with room turnover
- Expedite loaner trays dropped off in less than 48hrs

Preparation and Planning

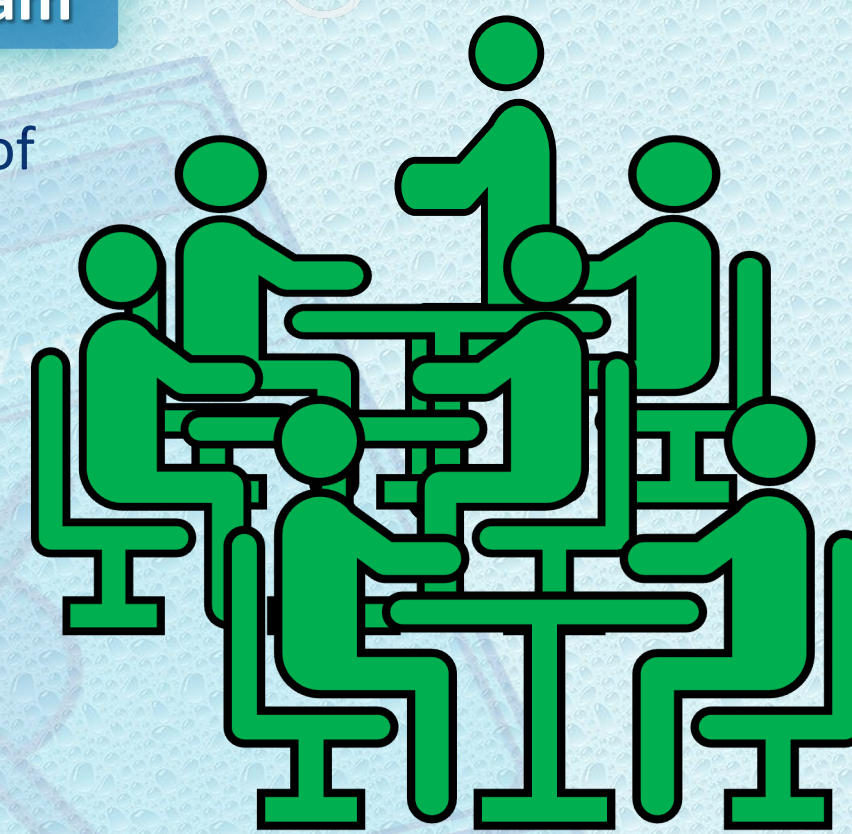
The OR-CPD task force collaborated to develop an action plan with the goal to eliminate IUSS in the operating room (OR):

- Gathered data to identify trends related to:
 - Instruments consistently processed via IUSS
 - Highest use of IUSS by surgical specialty
- Solicited questions from the nursing staff to better understand the reasons for utilizing IUSS
- Collaborated with surgeons to streamline instrument trays
- Partnered with Materials Management, Infection Control, and Nursing Leadership to assess procurement of Sealed Sterilization Containers

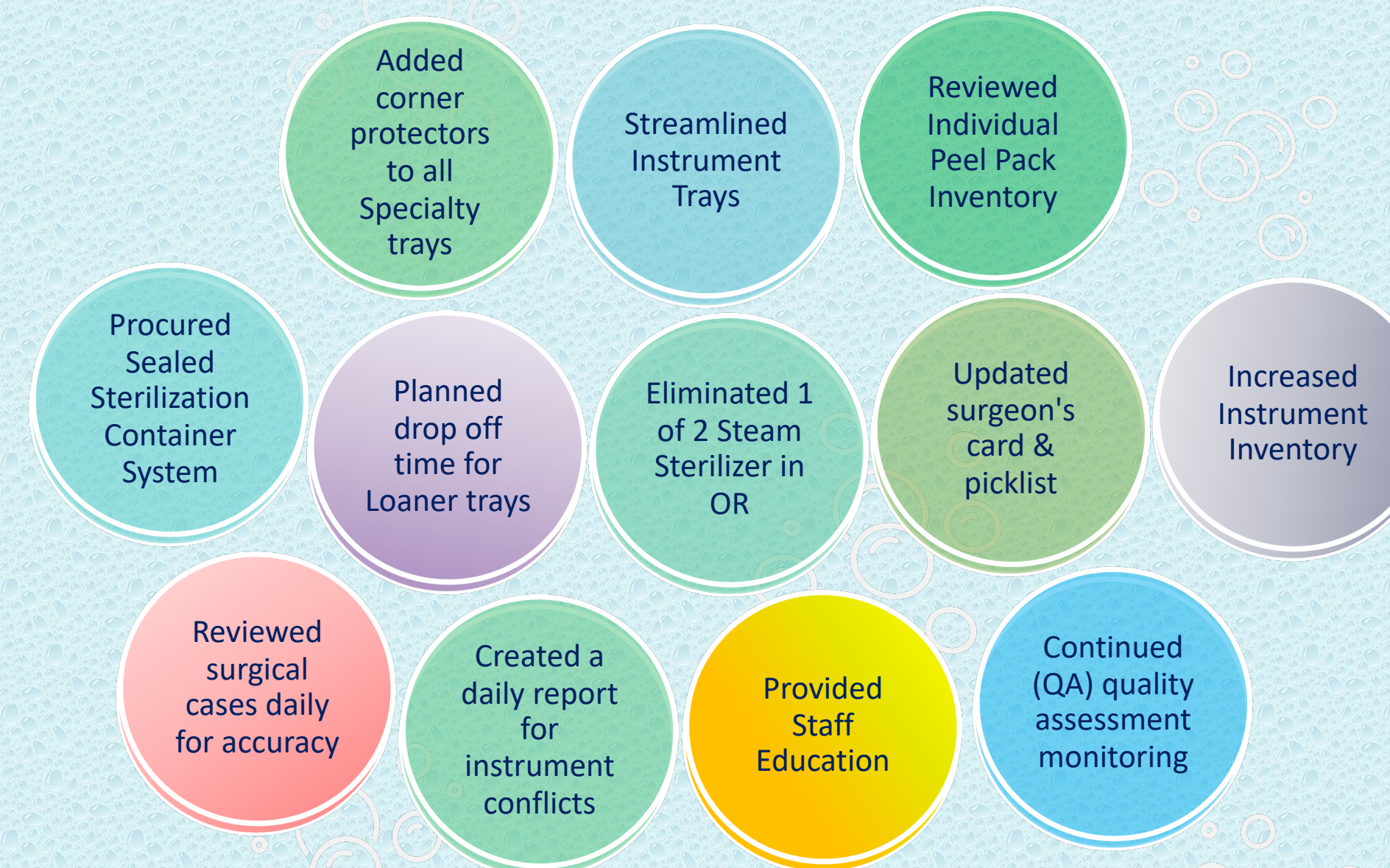
Description of Team

Interdisciplinary group consisting of members from :

- Surgery
- Nursing
- Central Processing Department
- Materials Management
- Infection Control
- Clinical Nurse Specialist
- NPDS



Implementation



Implications for Perioperative Nursing

Fulfilling the needs of the surgical team and effectively giving the highest quality patient care are both important goals and significant objectives at MSKCC. This interdisciplinary team accomplished this by:

- Identifying the importance of the demand for instrument inventory and modifying trays to support surgical service volume
- Streamlining instrument trays which reduced stress, improved turnover time and was a great satisfier for the entire surgical team
- Empowering nurses to be involved with patient care is a key objective in reducing SSIs
- Reducing CPD workload as fewer instrument trays were decontaminated, assembled, and sterilized
- Creating a workflow that improved the availability of loaner and specialty instruments

Outcome

- IUSS utilization fell from 486 to 110 instances in the first year and continued to decrease, yearly
- Zero utilization was achieved by 2020

