

Nurse-Driven Initiative for Successful Implementation of ACS Operative Standards at a Community Hospital

Lindsey E. Pimentel, RN, MBA, CHPN, OCN and Tara Zumwalt, RN, BSN
Houston Methodist Neal Cancer Center

Introduction

With the introduction of American College of Surgeon (ACS) Operative Standards, cancer programs across the country continue to work diligently to implement strategies to meet the new requirements.

Within our hospital system, Community Cancer Programs (CCPs) provide a nurse-driven framework for program coordination, guidance of accreditation efforts, and ongoing compliance of Operative Standards.

The nurse provides a patient-centered, clinical perspective driving long-term sustainability.

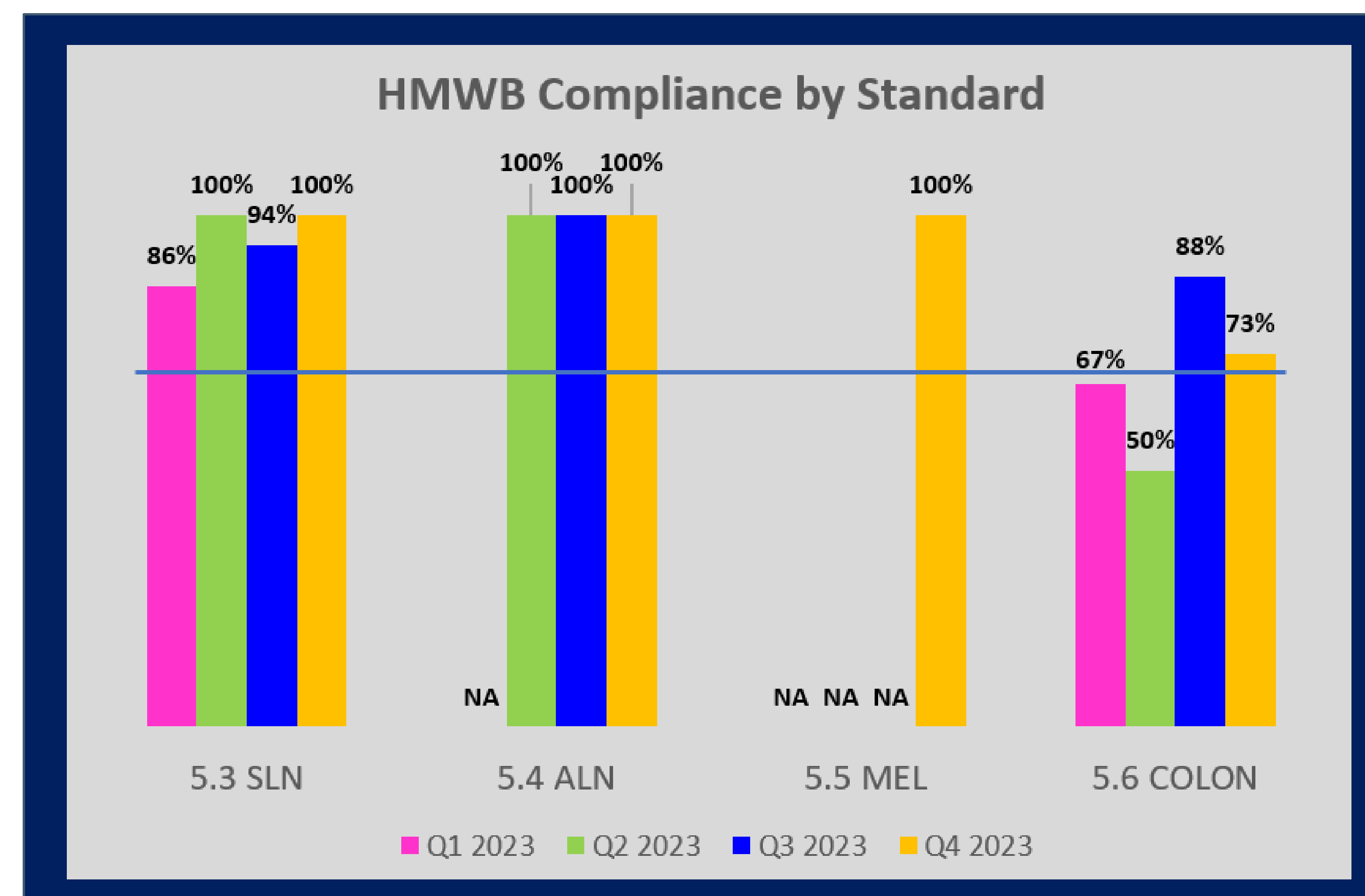
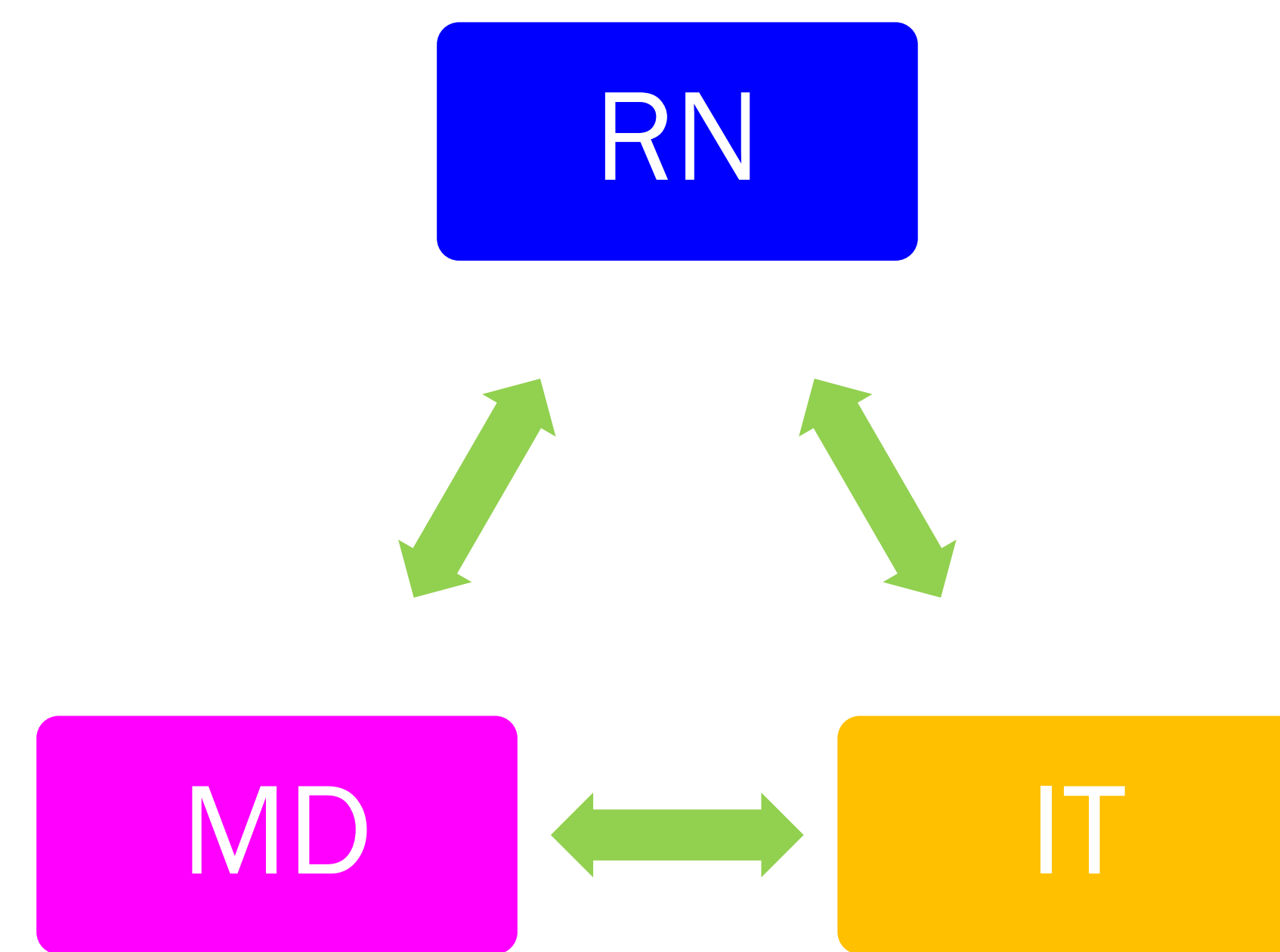
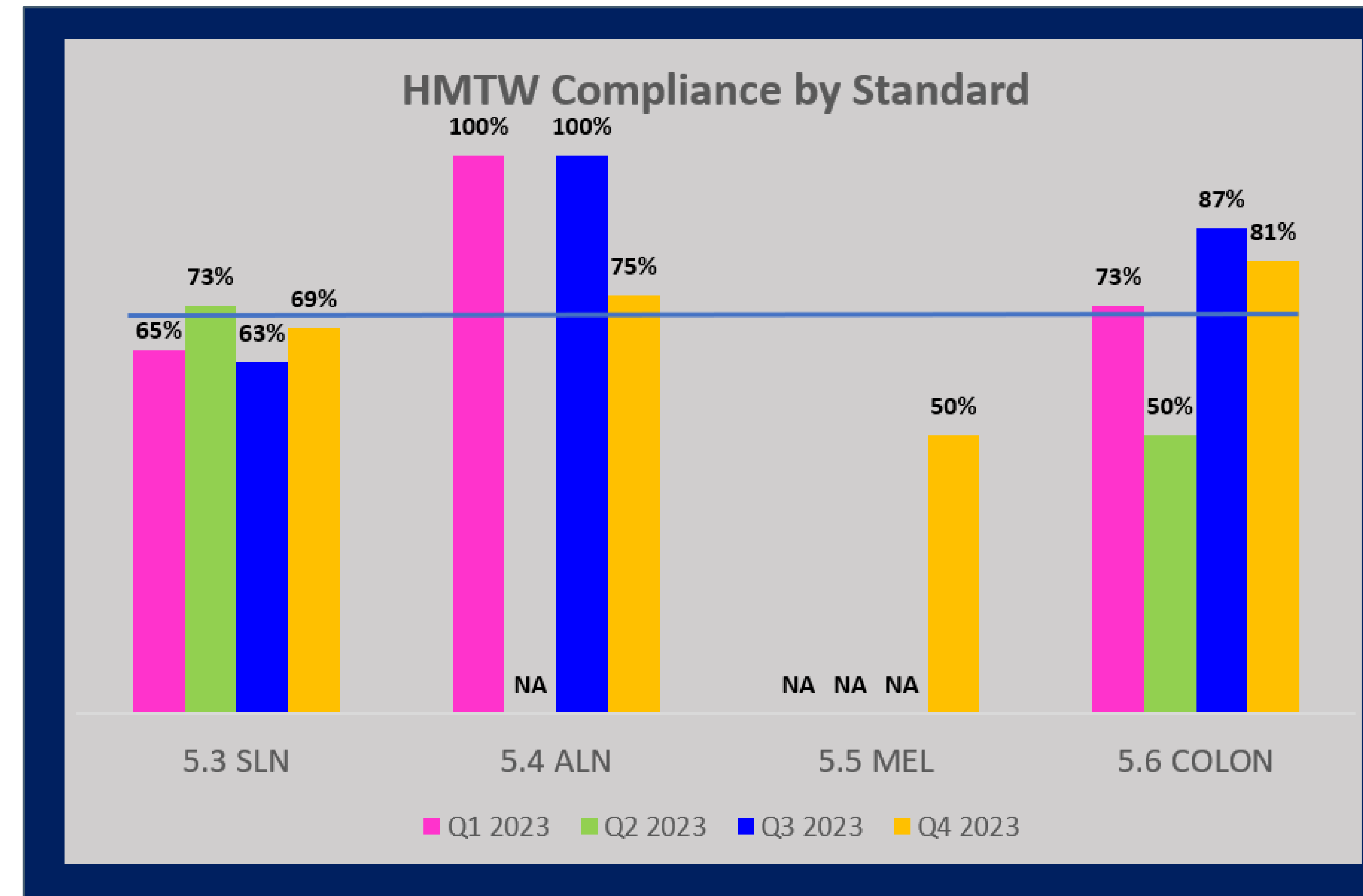
Objectives

- Develop a systematic approach to communicating and addressing Operative Standard compliance.
- Identify key stakeholders to address non-compliance.
- Ensure processes are sustainable for long-term, positive patient outcomes.

Interventions

- 2022**
- Development of a System-Wide Implementation Workgroup
 - Physician education of standard requirements
 - Develop an implementation process
 - Facilitate Cancer Committee oversight & approval processes

- 2023**
- Identify Physician Champions to lead Physician to Physician communication
 - Identify IT Support Champion to facilitate user-friendly implementation of EPIC Smart Phrases
 - Bi-weekly chart audits
 - Develop Surgical Subcommittee for standard oversight and identification of trends and key stakeholders



Outcomes

- Highlighted importance of targeted education for surgeons performing cancer surgeries
 - More than 50% of pertinent surgeons are not oncology specialists
 - Emphasis on importance of compliance due to low overall case eligibility
- Improved compliance across all Operative Standards
- Improved collaboration and appreciation of standard oversight
- Empowered Surgeon Champions
- Increased collaboration with teams outside of the Cancer Center
 - IT
 - Surgery
- More timely and sustained compliance with newly onboarded surgeons
- Capture of more surgeons over time
- Capture and improved compliance of non-employed surgeons over time

Future Implications

Potential Barriers:

- Identification of pertinent surgeons at time of hospital onboarding
- Challenges with capturing eligible case lists applicable to each standard
- Availability and training for IT personnel to support framework

Application Strategies:

- Adoption of nurse-driven framework to support long-term compliance for other CCPs
- Key is Physician to Physician Communication
- Center-specific need analysis to adopt nurse-driven processes
- Barrier identification and addressing on national-level

References