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Nursing Department
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Developed in partnership with UHN



LIMITING ACCESS TO CONCENTRATED ELECTROLYTES (CE):

A multidisciplinary approach to improving patient safety at the Kuwait Cancer Control Center (KCCC)

Problem:

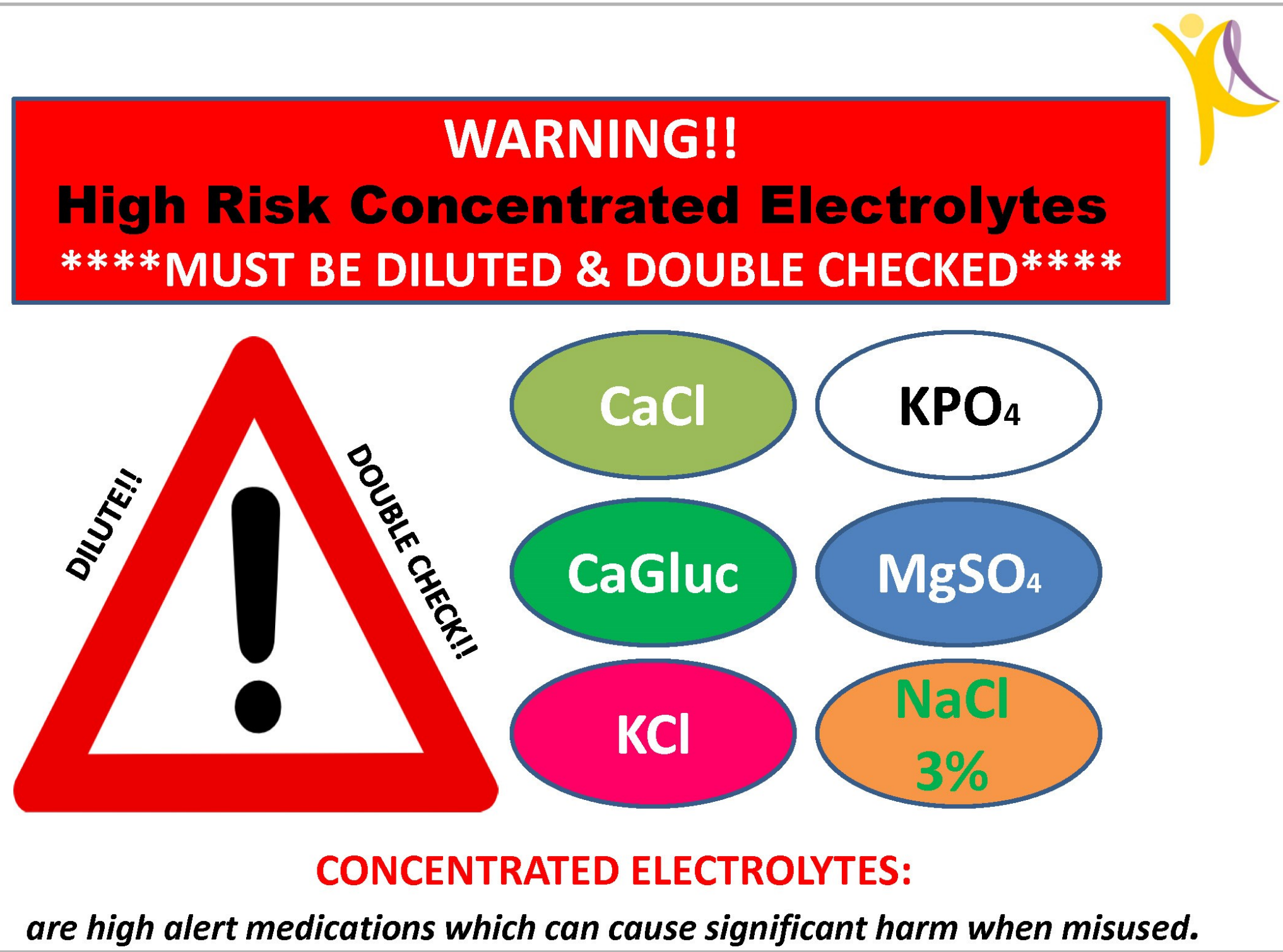
Pre-mixed bags of concentrated electrolytes are not available in Kuwait. KCCC had to change the way in which it managed concentrated electrolytes in order to be compliant with the Kuwait National Accreditation Standards for Hospitals

Aim:

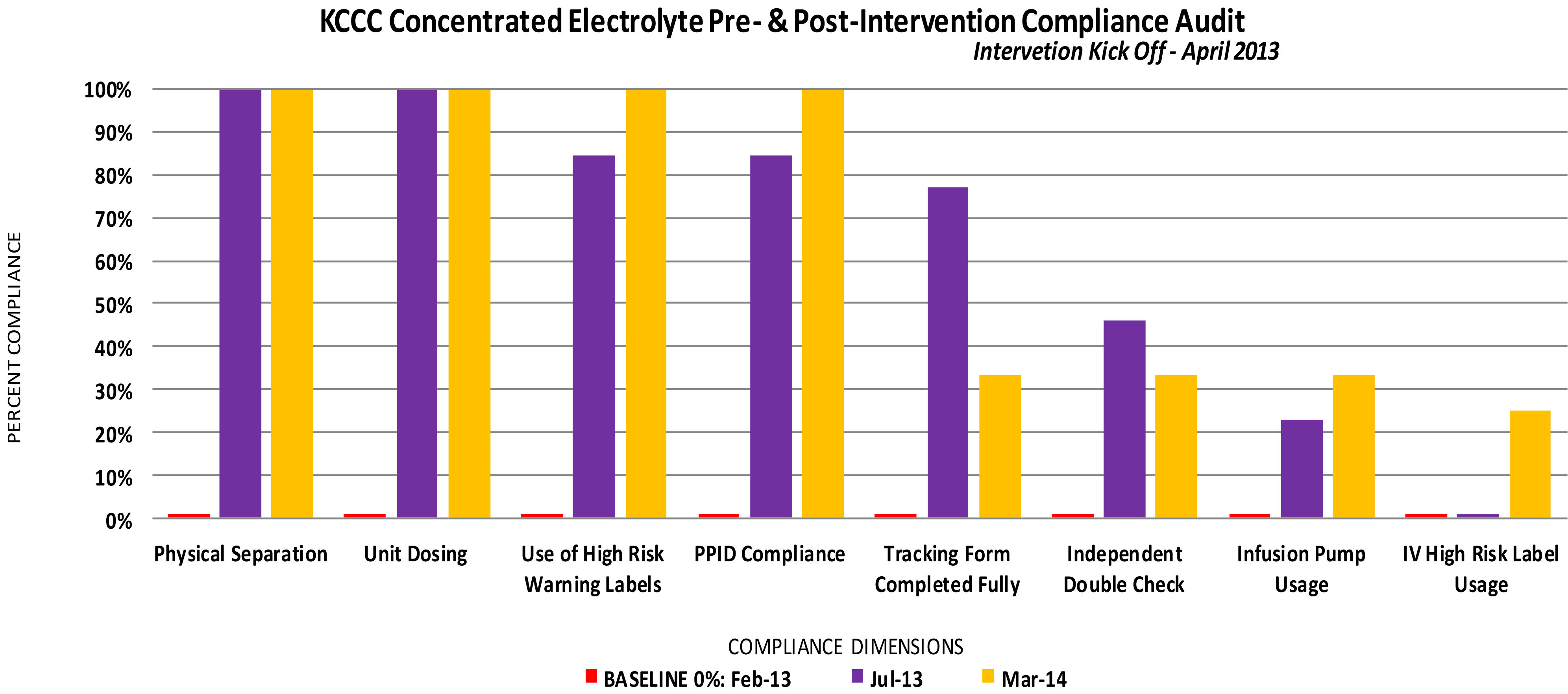
To improve patient safety by limiting access to concentrated electrolytes in all patient care areas in accordance with best practice and accreditation standards

Intervention:

- Formed a multidisciplinary task force ensuring full stakeholder engagement
- Conducted a current state analysis of KCCC practice and developed options analysis to address gaps
- Approved a corporate policy and tracking form
- Removed all CE ward stock from non-critical care areas
- Implemented a daily unit dosing program for prescribed concentrated electrolytes
- Provided controlled access to CE in case of emergency after pharmacy hours
- Required all CE unit doses to be labeled with the necessary identification and warning labels
- Mandated that all concentrated electrolytes be stored separately in a locked cupboard
- Changed nursing practice to require an independent double check of all CE preparations
- Introduced the use of infusion pumps to safely control the rate of CE infusion



Results:



Team:

- Multidisciplinary Pharmacy Accreditation Team
- Nursing Department
- Pharmacy Department
- Physician Representative
- Quality & Accreditation Department

Project Sponsors:

- Ph. Abdullah Al Mutairi, Head of Pharmacy
- Dr. Abeer Al Enezi, Head of Quality & Accreditation

Coach:

- UHN – Princess Margaret Cancer Centre International

Conclusions:

- KCCC has improved patient safety by limiting access to CEs through a number of important strategies. Since being implemented in April 2013, these gains have been successfully maintained one year post implementation
- Further targeted work is required to reinforce the use of the CE tracking form for more than just daily dispensing. In particular, nurses need to conduct and document independent double checks for all CE preparations
- This project has had the added benefit of improving multidisciplinary collaboration between the pharmacy and nursing departments

Next Steps:

1. Provide additional staff training on the importance of completing the CE tracking form
2. Conduct ongoing compliance auditing and follow-up
3. Continue to advocate for access to premixed bags of CEs at KCCC and throughout Kuwait
4. Initiate development of corporate clinical guidelines for the use of CEs at KCCC