

Save the Aprons, Save the Hospital

The Problem

- Radiation Protective Apparel (RPA) is difficult to locate and track to satisfy the annual inspection requirement
- Database unreliability and inconsistencies
- Inaccessibility of records in support of trending:
 - Pass / Fail rates
 - Types of failures
 - Scheduling management for 2000+ items

Goal

The goal of the project is to create a program that involves clinical area representatives to be actively involved with the safety verification for the RPA their department uses. The program is intended to include a tracking and reporting system that is very user-friendly to improve records management and accessibility.

The Team

- Radiation Safety
- Animal Research
- Perioperative
- Radiology
- GI
- Orthopedics
- Cardiology
- Emergency Dept.
- Rad. Oncology

The Interventions

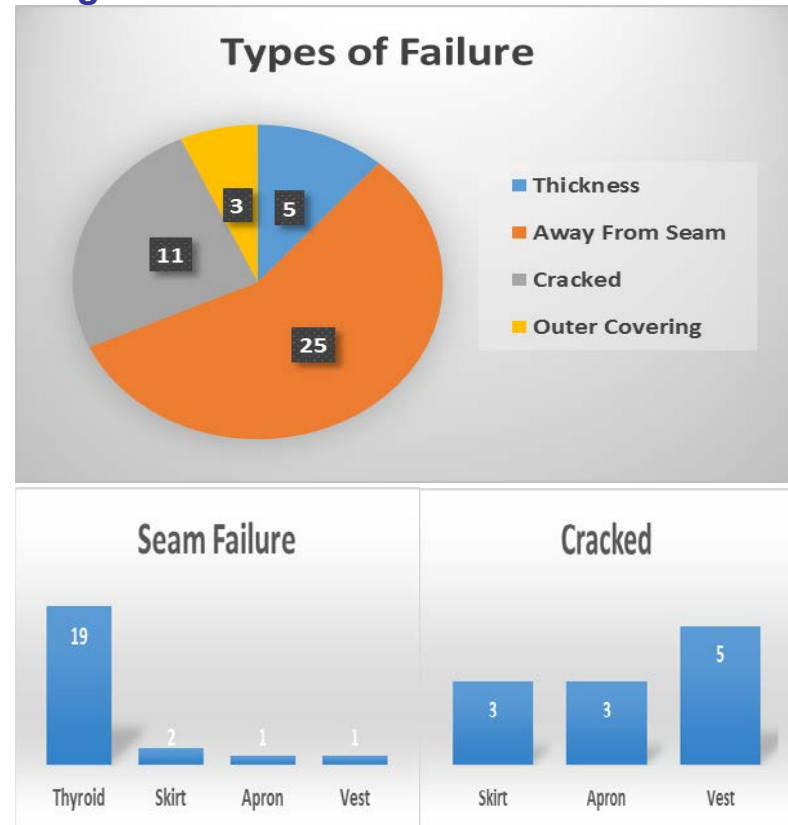
The actions taken to reach our goal included:

- Researching electronic inventory options
- Testing various unique identification markers
- Overhauling the inspection program
- Updating the inspection policy
- Developing training materials and staff communications

Progress to Date

- New system of inventorying RPA with QR coded stickers which link to a web-enabled inventory database (www.smartid.bar-ray.com)
- Addition of 2300 pieces of RPA
- New inspection aids in the form of yearly color coded stickers
- Removal of ~300 pieces of failed RPA

Progress to Date



Lessons Learned

Lessons learned through this process primarily revolved around challenges with stickers. Choosing the appropriate adhesive, ink, and even paper took several rounds of trial and error. The stickers needed to be adhered to RPA and then worn in their working environments to identify a fully functioning combination.

Next Steps

- Improve staff communications
- Improve RPA ordering and receiving process
- Create a standard cycle for major departments