

RIGHT ON TRACK: DO YOU NEED TO CERTIFY THEM?

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To reduce inappropriate MHA certification by 10% at RCH by the end of 2023

Background

The Mental Health Act (MHA) provides physicians and hospitals with the legal authority to admit and detain patients with a **mental disorder** if they meet certain specified criteria. The Health Care (Consent) and Care Facility (Admission) Act (HCCA) outlines what a patient's rights are, the elements of informed consent, when consent is required, and what to do if a patient is found to be incapable.

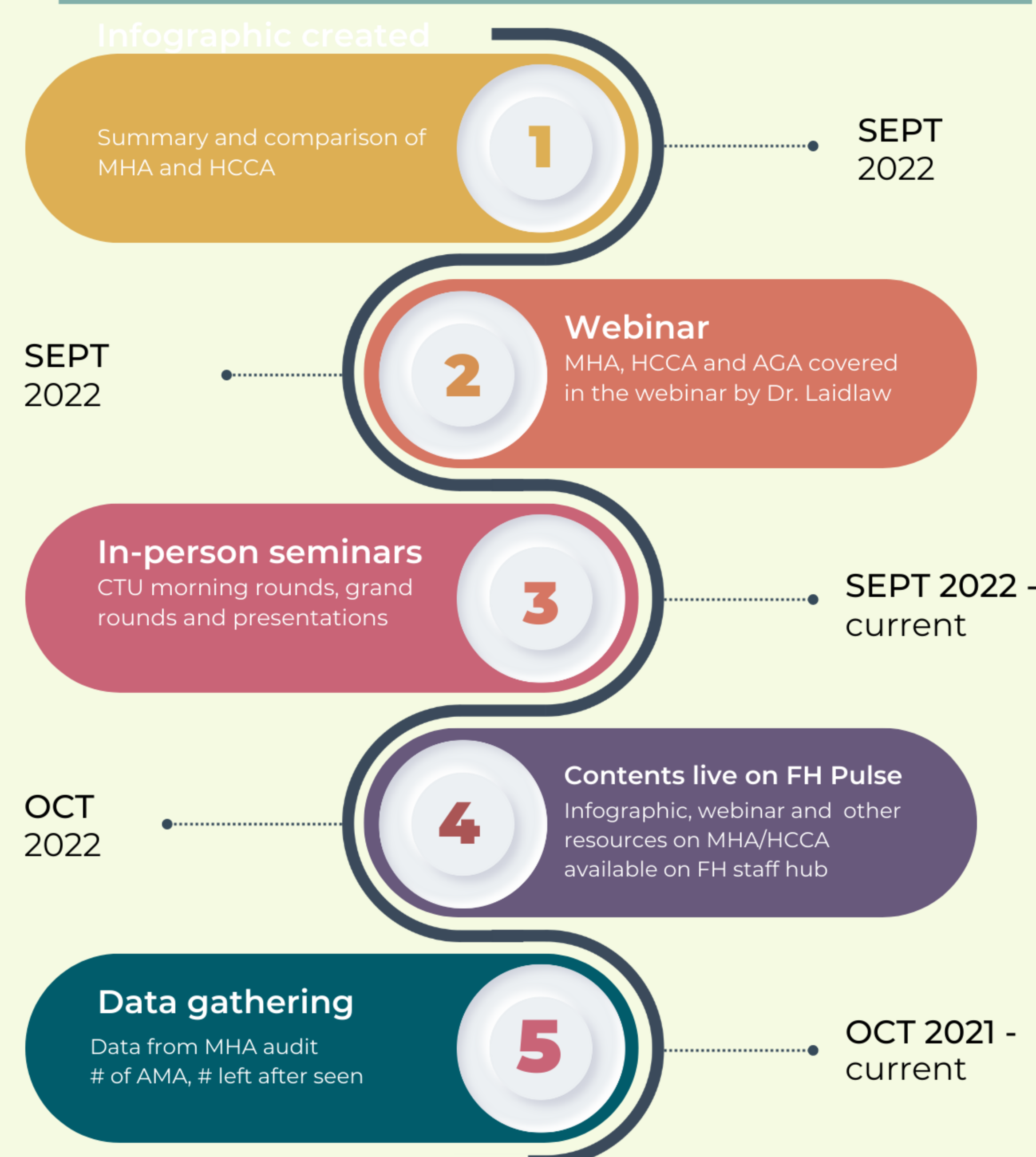
The MHA may be inappropriately used to detain patients due to:

- No clear policies on patient monitoring under HCCA
- Lack of standardized forms for HCCA documenting use of the HCCA
- Inadequate knowledge and comfort of healthcare providers with treating patients under HCCA
- Difficulty bringing eloped patients back to hospital under HCCA

Inappropriate use of MHA was raised as a concern as per the Ombudsperson report 2017, which suggested systemic failure and widespread lack of awareness and understanding of MHA.

Increased knowledge of applicable legislation can help physicians and healthcare providers ask pertinent questions to determine which act should be enacted to legally and appropriately to continue treating these patients in the hospital.

Actions taken



Results

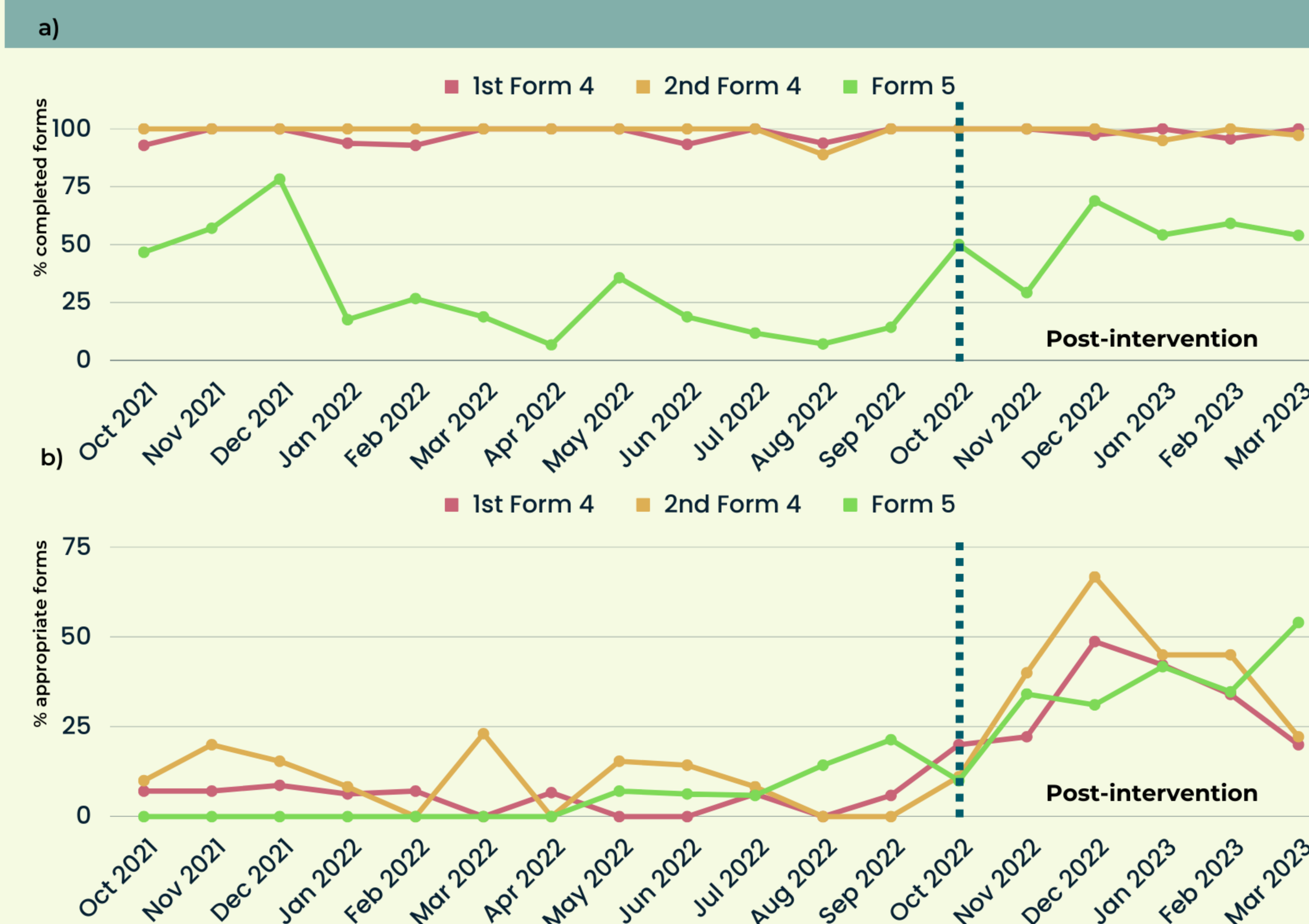
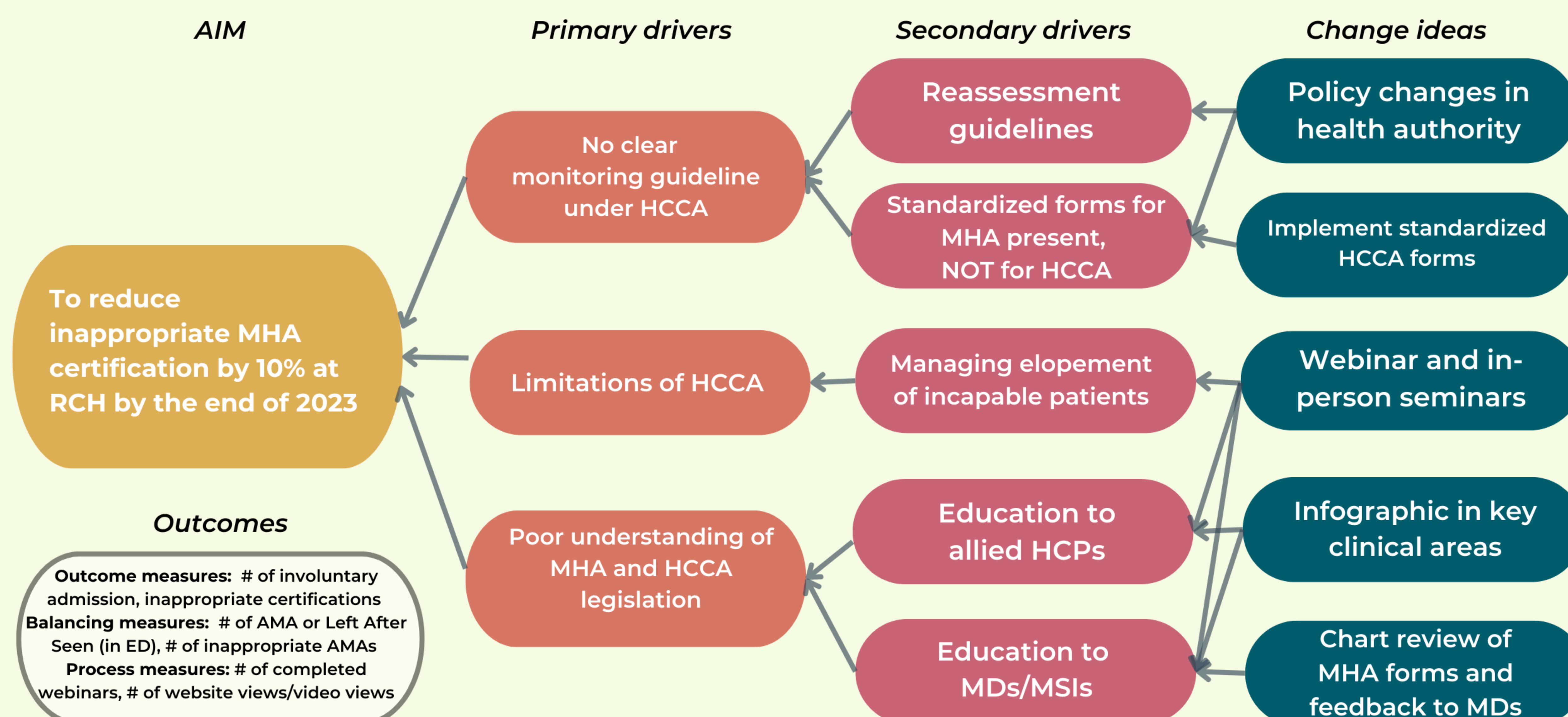


Figure 1: Percentage of completed (a) and appropriate (b) MHA certification forms from chart audit data (Oct 2021 - Mar 2023). Completed if the form is present in the chart with each fillable space completed.

Appropriate if the documented rationale for involuntary admission and treatment plan is up to provincial quality standard and legislative requirement

- 100% of Form 4s (1st and 2nd) were completed. < 10% of Form 4s met the quality standard pre-intervention, which increased to 33% (1st Form 4) and 44% (2nd Form 4) post intervention.
- The completion rate was even lower for form 5 (30%) with only 5% meeting quality standard. Following the intervention, 53% of Form 5 were completed and 39% of Form 5 were appropriate.
- 48 patients left against medical advice. 12 were admitted involuntarily, while 36 patients were admitted as voluntary patients.
- As of March 20, 2023, 318 visits occurred to Pulse webpage. 4 surveys initiated and 1 completed. 1 completed survey revealed "yes" to improvement in understanding of MHA and HCCA.

Driver Diagram



Next steps

- We will obtain post-intervention data from October 27, 2022 - October 26, 2023.
- We expect the number of inappropriate MHA certifications to decrease, without the balancing measures changing significantly.
- Transition responsibility for healthcare provider education on MHA/HCCA to Health Authorities

References

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- Management of vulnerable adult patients seeking to leave hospital: Understanding and using relevant legislation. Jennifer Laidlaw, Leanne Lange, Erin Henthorne, BC Medical Journalvol. 63, No. 3, April 2021, Pages 106-111