

## Background

- Hepatitis B is a significant risk for patients with end-stage renal disease or acute kidney injury who are treated with hemodialysis.
  - To reduce the risk of hepatitis B transmission, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends isolating patients with hepatitis B during dialysis treatments and disinfecting machines after treatment.
  - Knowledge of a dialysis patient’s hepatitis B status is critical to determining the appropriate treatment protocol.
- In 2016, it was determined that the rate of treatments performed on patients with unknown hepatitis B status in the Davita Hospital Services Group (HSG) western region was higher than the national average (17% vs 12%).
  - This higher rate was observed despite the existence of validated processes to reduce risk, including evaluation of outpatient laboratory results, timely blood draws from new patients, and rapid turnaround of laboratory results.

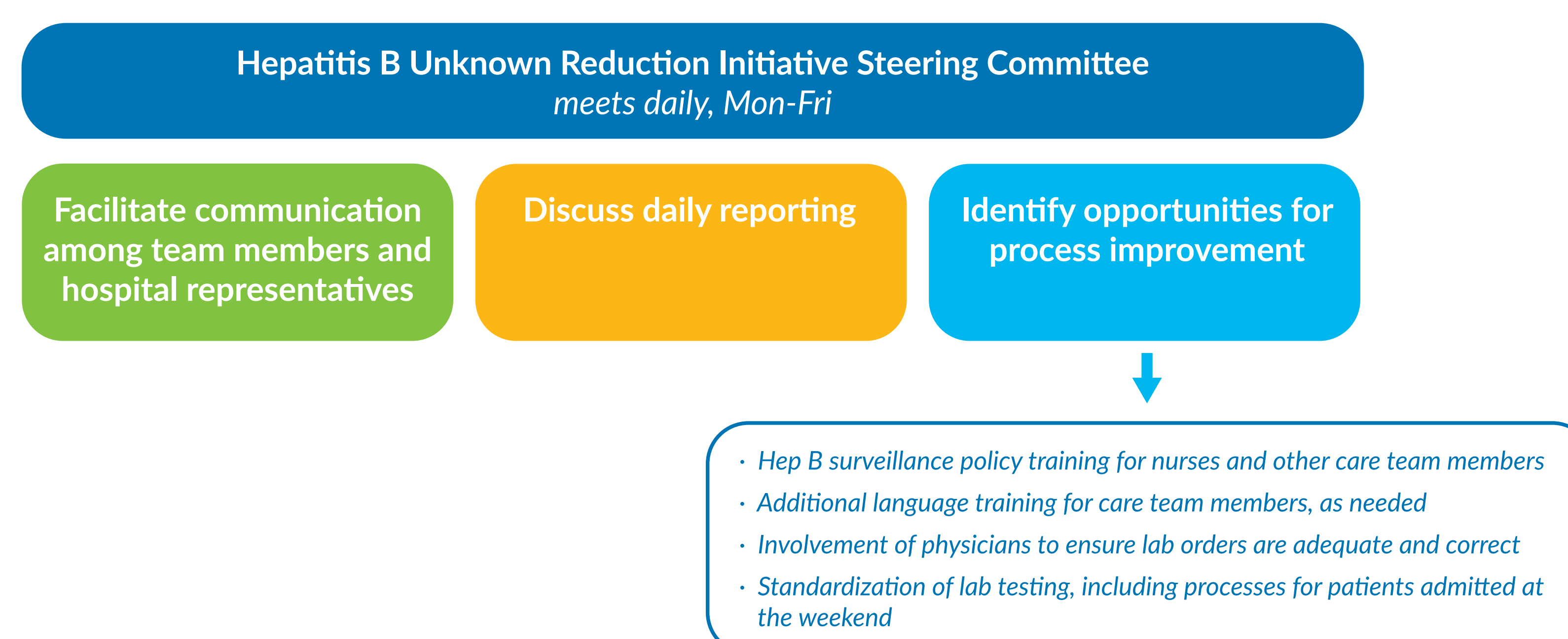
## Objective

- To reduce the rate of dialysis treatments with hepatitis B status unknown in the HSG western region through the assessment of potential root causes and identification of opportunities for operational improvement

## Approach

- A steering committee composed of clinical and administrative leaders was formed and met daily, Monday to Friday.
  - The steering committee evaluated potential barriers to process implementation and reporting at affected hospitals and facilitated communication among team members and hospital representatives.
- Specific opportunities for operational improvement were identified through root cause analysis.
  - New processes were developed to address these opportunities, including enhanced focus on team member communication and education as well as implementation of a centralized data portal to facilitate the exchange of data from outpatient dialysis facilities to the hospital team.

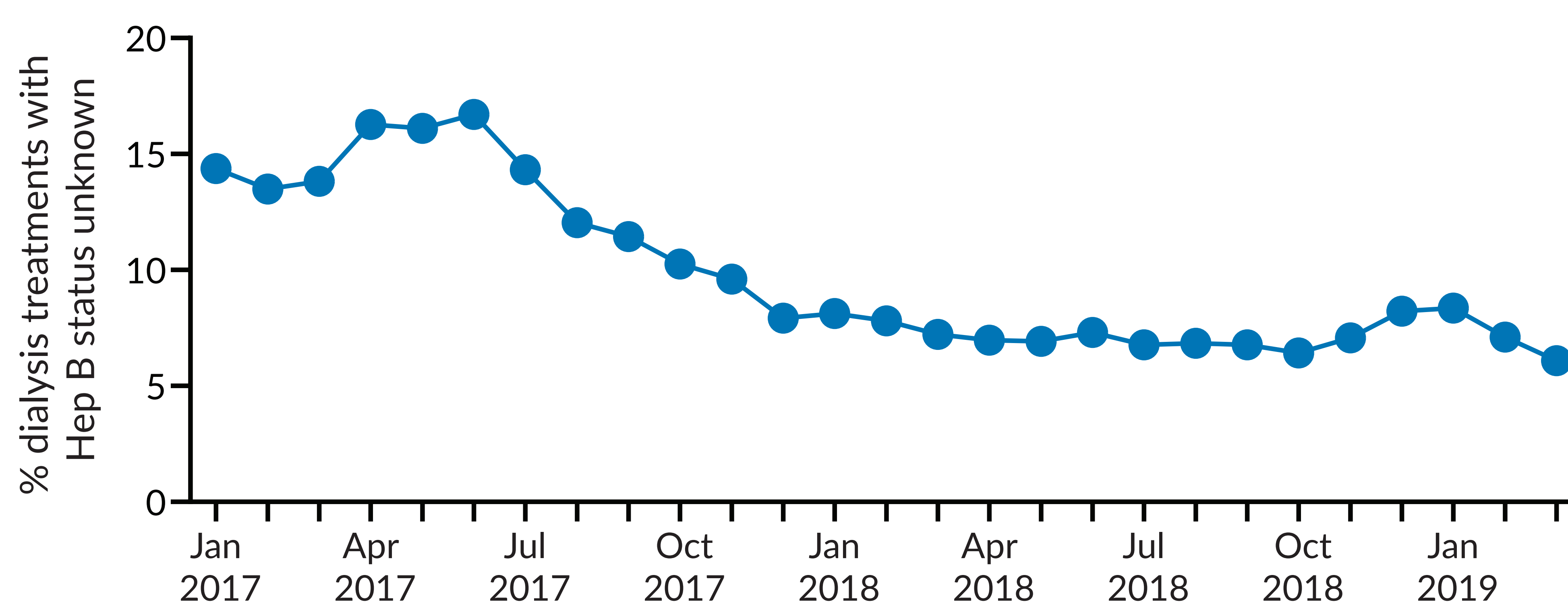
Figure 1: Role of the Hepatitis B Unknown Reduction Steering Committee



## Results

- Following implementation of the initiative in 2017, there was a sustained reduction in the percentage of inpatient dialysis treatments performed on patients with unknown hepatitis B status across the HSG western region (from >15% to ~7%).

Figure 2: Percentage of Inpatient Dialysis Treatments with Patient Hepatitis B Status Unknown, Western Region



## Conclusions

- These results demonstrate that improving processes and increasing leadership involvement can positively impact the rate of treatments performed on patients with unknown hepatitis B status.
- This is a fundamental step in reducing the risk of hepatitis B infection and enhancing patient safety.

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