

TITLE: Reducing the average number of days to start a tissue audit decreases the average number of days to send a chart to the tissue processor.

**BACKGROUND:**

Southwest Transplant Alliance (STA) is an OPO and Tissue Bank. STA works with seven Tissue processors and recovers Musculoskeletal, Dermis and Cardiovascular Tissue. In 2022 STA recovered 705 tissue donors. STA has seen a 25.2% increase in the number of tissue donors recovered. These lifesaving/life enhancing grafts totaled more than 10,000.

STA does a 100% audit of the Tissue charts.

In September 2022 due to the increased volume of tissue recovered, the STA Quality team experienced an increase in the number of days to perform a tissue chart audit from 2.62 to 3.19. This created a backlog in the number of days to begin an audit, auditor burn out, and the supervisor spent more time on tissue chart auditing. In addition, the additional tasks that a chart auditor was performing in addition to auditing such as: requesting autopsy information, medical records, cultures etc. was taking away from auditing time.

To counter this, permission was obtained for an additional chart auditor. Adding an additional auditor will aid in fewer days to begin a tissue chart audit and quicker tissue chart audit completion, leading to obtaining release for transplantation quicker.

**HYPOTHESIS:** Adding an additional auditor along with a hybrid auditor/medical records specialist dedicated to obtaining medical records and autopsy reports will reduce the number of days it takes to audit a tissue chart.

**METHODS:** September 2022 two additional positions to the auditing team were acquired. One position to audit tissue charts and one position obtains all medical records and autopsy reports in addition to performing tissue chart audits.

**RESULTS:**

**Tissue Chart Metrics 2022**

**Goal: <=30**

**Goal - 7 days**

	<b>Total Donors</b>	<b># of Audits Ended</b>	<b>Avg Days to End Audits (charts sent to processor)</b>	<b>Avg Days to Start Audit</b>
January	34	67	32.05	6.1
February	59	28	16	3.05
March	63	63	18	3.15
April	56	71	20	3.2
May	51	51	25	3.2
June	53	53	17	3.25
July	53	48	18	3.46
August	54	42	18	2.62
September	65	59	17.88	3.19
October	73	54	24.28	3.91
November	72	55	25.62	4.36
December	72	93	25.65	2.94

**Tissue Chart Metrics 2023**

**Goal: <=30**

**Goal - 7 days**

	<b>Total Donors</b>	<b># of Audits Ended</b>	<b>Avg Days to End Audits (charts sent to processor)</b>	<b>Avg Days to Start Audit</b>
January	63	65	23.66	3.92
February	62	65	19.71	2.32
March	89	81	18.07	2.4
April	60	70	19.53	2.3

CONCLUSIONS: Numbers went up during the training period between September 2022 and December 2022 but levelled off to an average of 2.3 days to begin an audit, which is below the beginning number of days to begin an audit of 2.62.

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