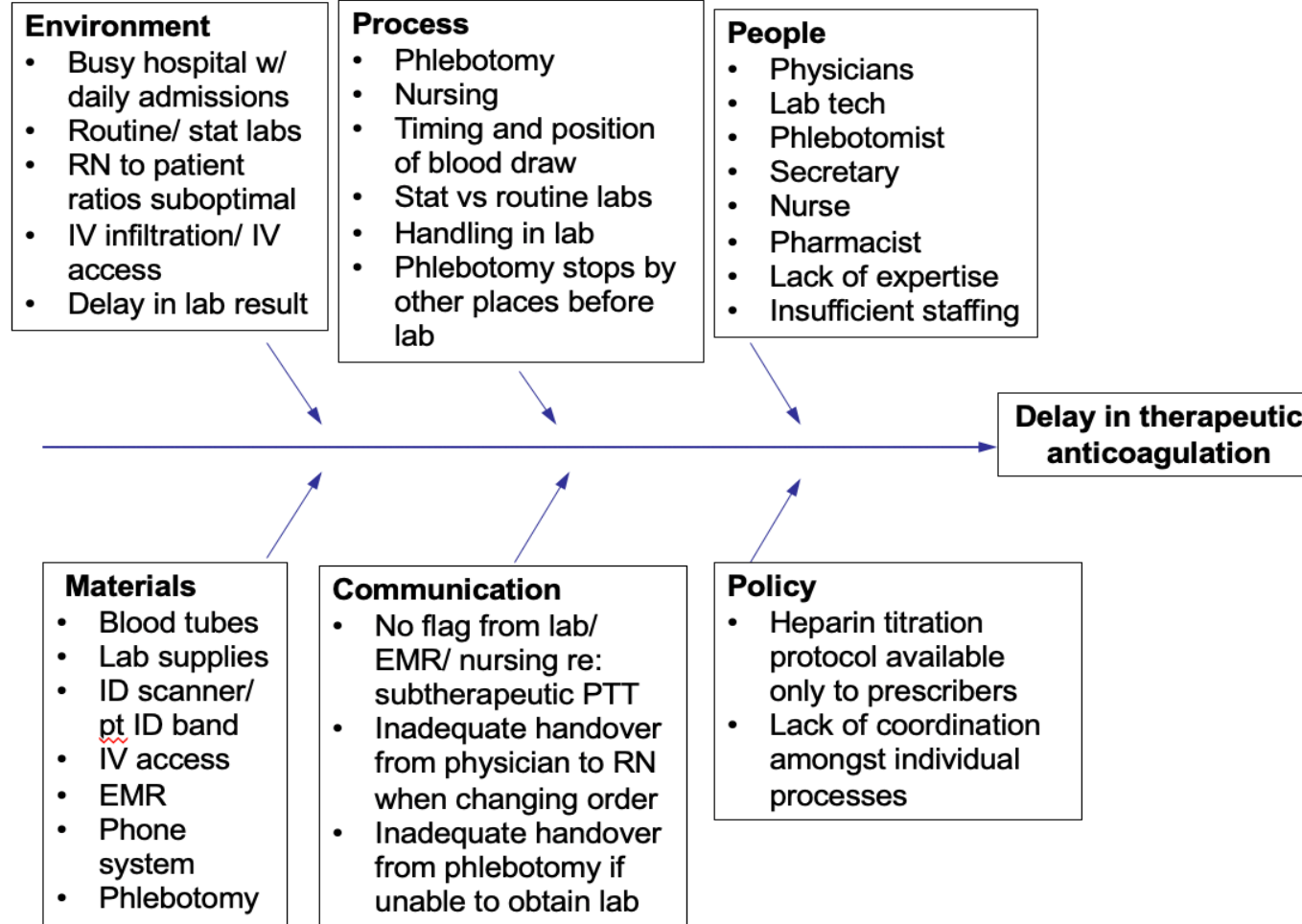


Introduction

- Heparin infusions are first-line to treat acute DVT. aPTT is checked every 6-hours until 2 consecutive therapeutic results (goal aPTT 60-90) are obtained. Lab reports aPTT to EMR within 2 hours. Once reported, physicians change heparin dose order that is implemented by nursing staff.
- **Question:** *how long does it take for heparin to be adjusted relative to the aPTT result?*

Methods

- Retrospective chart review from Jan – Dec 2018
- Inclusive criteria: age >18, initial acute DVT on continuous heparin
- One sample t-test



Future direction:

- Identify areas for small change to yield bigger change (lab draws, communication, EMR reporting of subtherapeutic results)
- Trial nursing-drive heparin titration protocol with PDSA cycles

Results

- 231 patients
- Average time to change heparin dose >7 hours (SD \pm 7.32, $p < 0.0001$)

Conclusion

- **Answer:** *it takes over 7 hours for heparin dose to be adjusted relative to the aPTT result reported.*
- We need systems-based changes to improve therapeutic anti-coagulation to improve outcomes and decrease hospital length of stay.