

# Improved leadership engagement and injection safety through standardized, structured action planning

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## Background

Ambulatory clinics offer a range of services including vaccinations, administration of medications, and various diagnostic and therapeutic injections. Ensuring safety standards are met is crucial to prevent the transmission of infections and other adverse events. While these standards are well established, opportunities to improve injection safety continue to be identified when conducting direct observations.

Wide variations in healthcare worker (HCW) injection practices have been observed during infection prevention (IP) rounding in a large multi-state health system. Local leaders of these HCWs must submit corrective action plans for IP observations with compliance scores below system thresholds.



## Methods

In 2022, system IP leaders adapted well-known SMART Goal frameworks into a novel, standardized template for leaders to create action plans in response to IP observations. Compliance scores from injection safety surveillance were compared pre and post SMART Plan implementation.

SMART Action Plan	
Specific Goal(s):	
Measurable:	
Actions:	
Resources:	
Time Based:	

## Results

Ambulatory clinics saw an improvement in injection safety related findings from Q3 2022 to Q3 2023. See results by metric in Chart 1. Timeliness and completeness of action plans have also improved in 2023. Action plans are now focused, specific, and have defined ongoing follow up to build resiliency into their process.

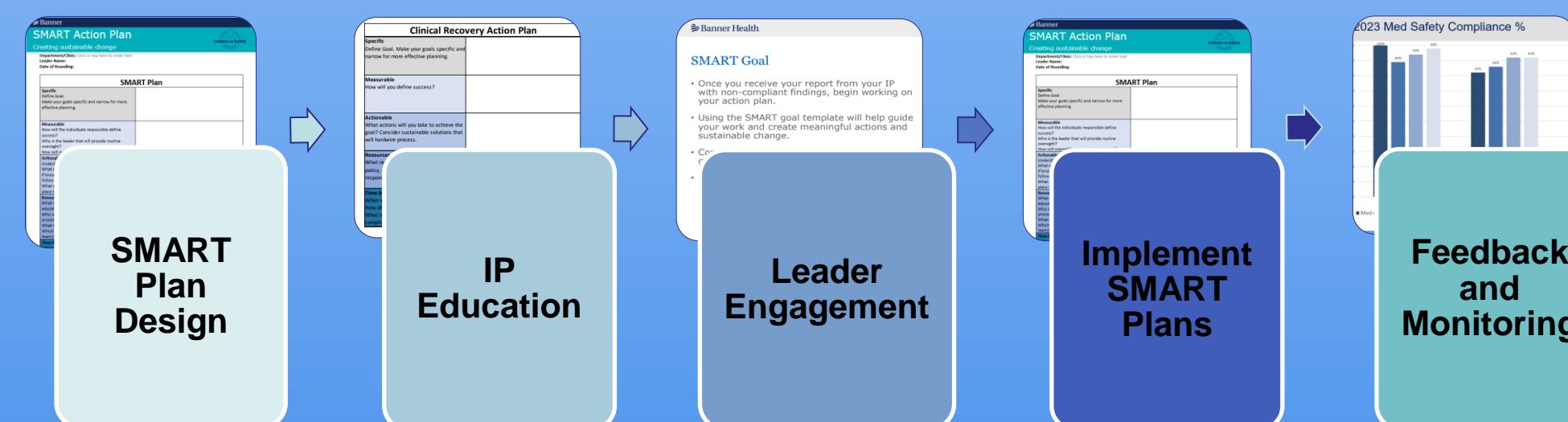
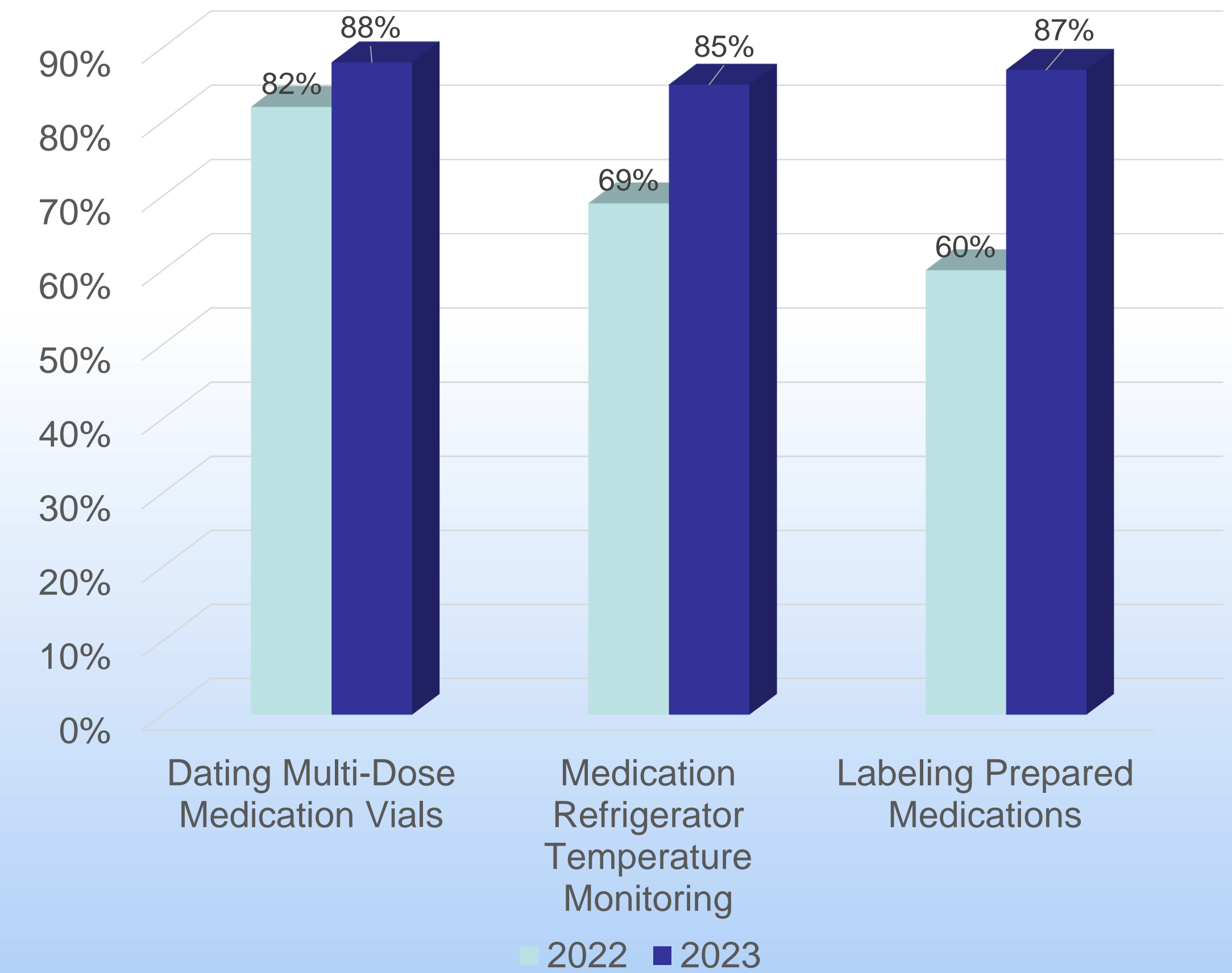


Chart 1. Medication Safety Metric Compliance %



## Conclusion

Standardized action planning templates are an effective tool to improve injection safety by engaging leaders to create and implement effective action plans resulting in hardwired processes and sustained improvements.

## Contact Information

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