

# Using Quality Improvement Techniques to Reduce Delayed Hospital Follow-up in Youth with Known Type 1 Diabetes Admitted in Diabetic Ketoacidosis

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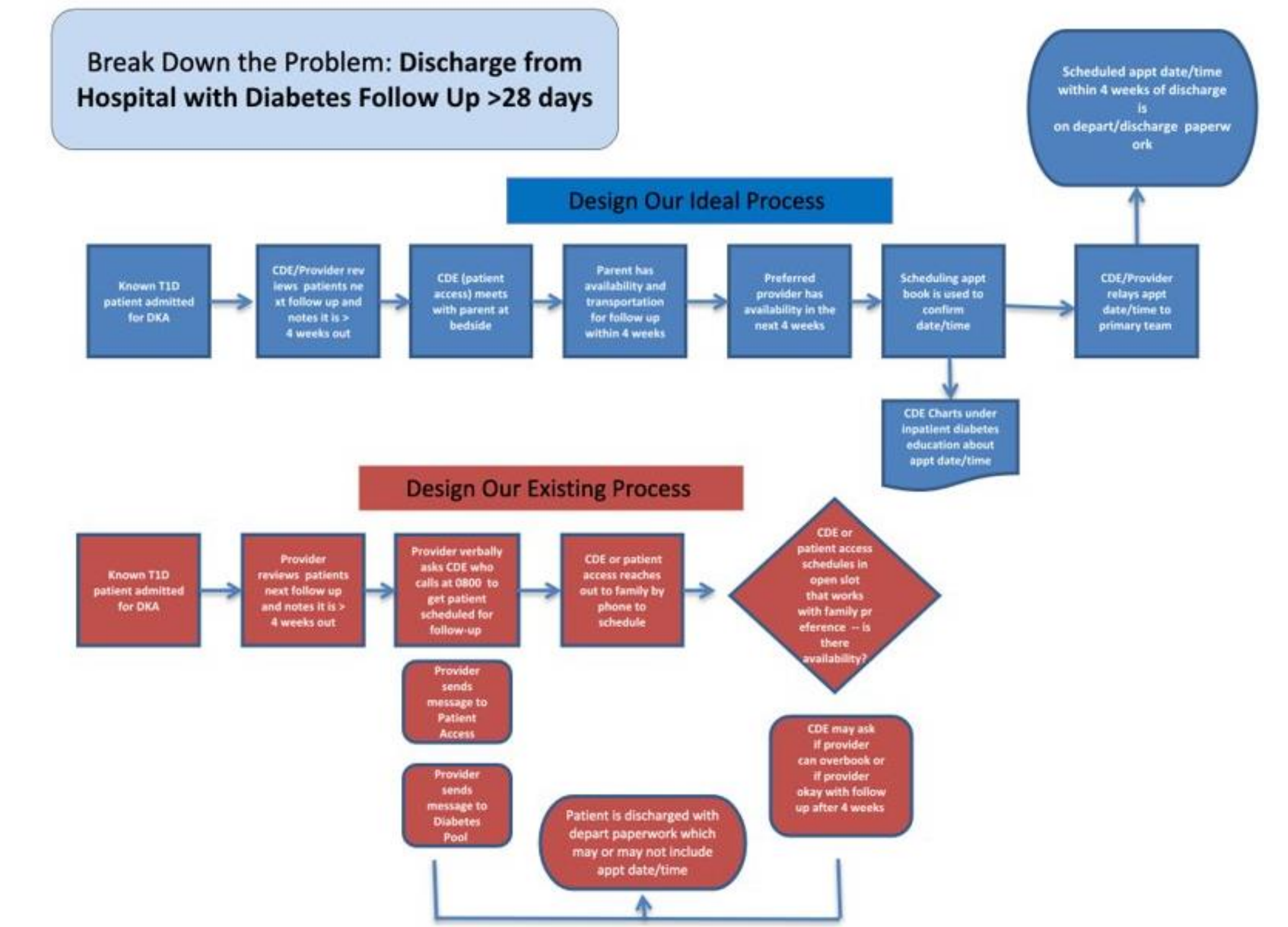
## Children's Mercy Kansas City, Kansas City, MO

### Background

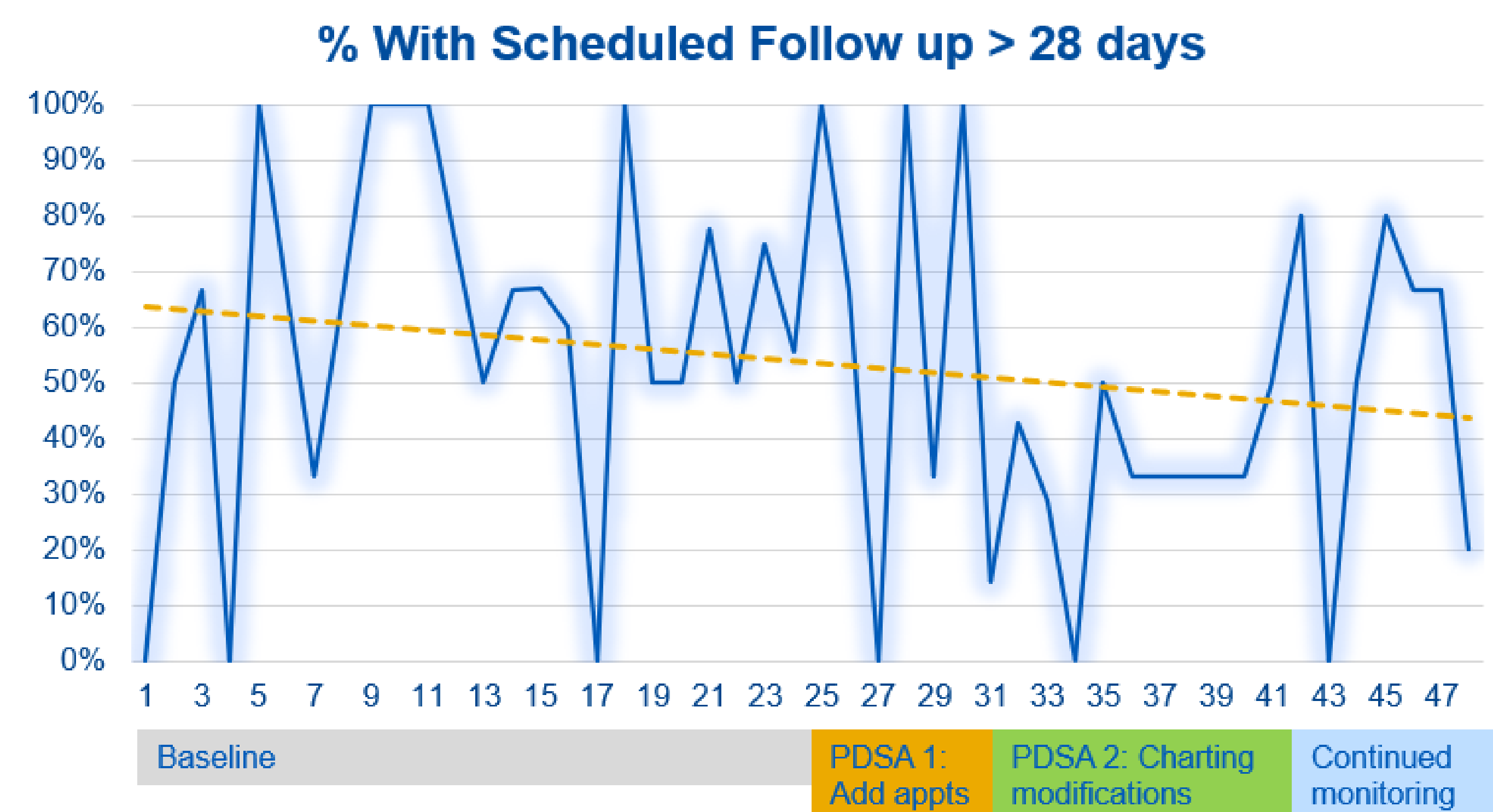
- Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) is a life-threatening complication of type 1 diabetes (T1D).
- Guidelines recommend outpatient follow-up within 1 month of DKA discharge.
- Only 37% of patients had timely hospital follow ups after an admission for DKA.
- A quality improvement (QI) initiative sought to reduce this to less than 40%.

### Methods

- Using A3 Problem-Solving Assessment Form and Process Flow Maps, interventions were developed:
  - 1) addition of 2 clinic appts/week blocked for scheduling hospital follow-ups
  - 2a) modification of inpatient charting to require date of the follow-up appointment
  - 2b) an alert added to documentation should the charted follow-up date be > 28 days to encourage timely follow-up



### Results



- PDSA #1: Opening appointments reduced our follow-up > 28 days to 52% after 6 weeks
- PSDSA #2: With charting interventions this reduced further to 35% after 12 weeks
- Balancing measures: 80% of patients showed up for their DKA follow up appointment (89% prior to intervention)

### Conclusions

Using QI tools to develop interventions to increase access and guide workflow, our team was successfully able to reduce the percentage of pediatric patients with delayed hospital follow-up after an admission for DKA.