

Improving radiotherapy decision making by the acute oncology team

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Initial problem

The Edinburgh Cancer Centre is a regional centre covering 4 health boards. Multiple daily requests are made to the on-call team for previous radiotherapy information that is not readily available.

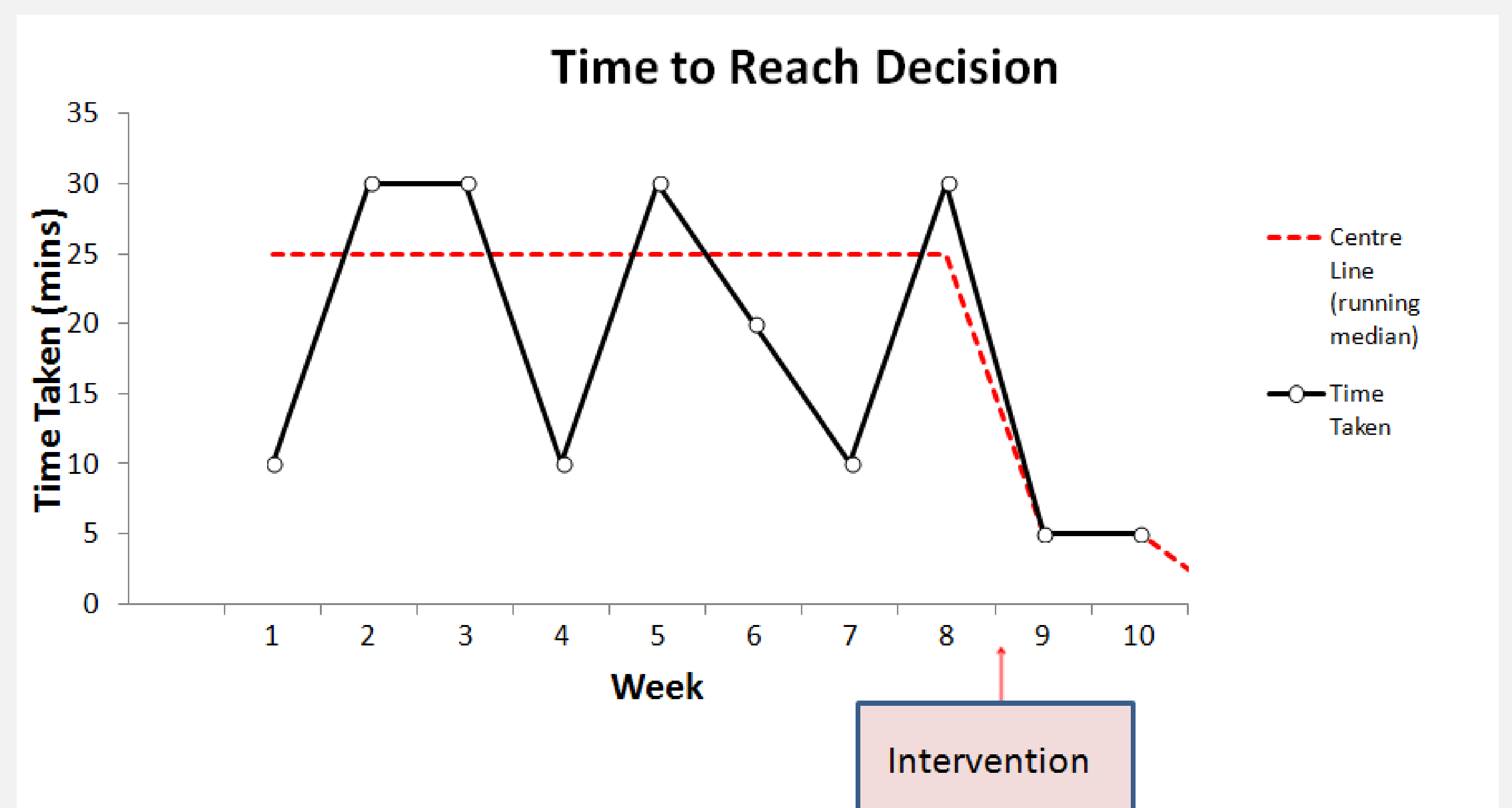
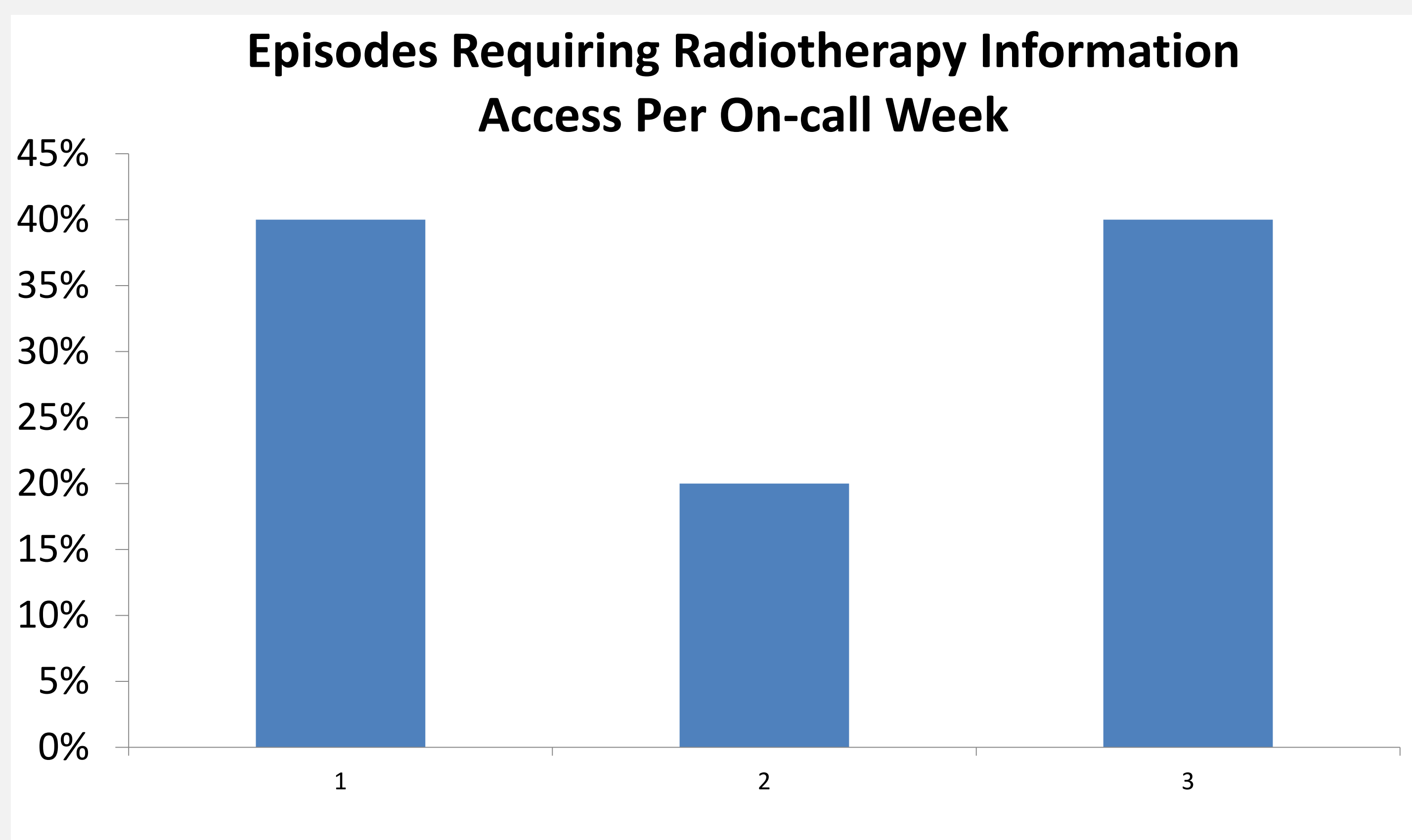
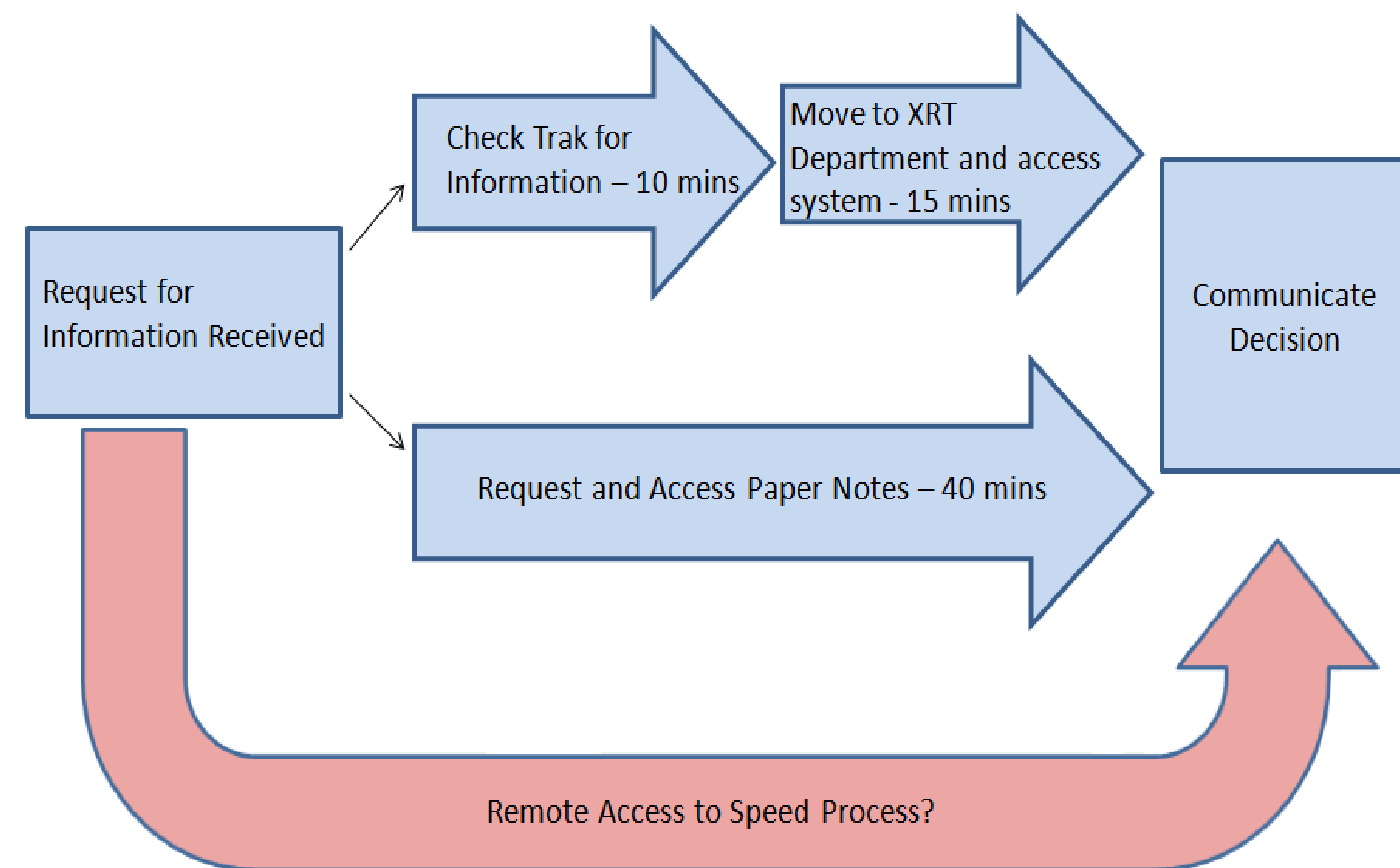
Specific aim

To reduce time taken between request for information and definitive decision communicated to referring team.

Measurement of Improvement

Survey medical staff for number of episodes requiring radiotherapy information access and perception of time taken to reach decision before and after our intervention at end of week 8

Process Map



Changes Suggested

- Scan notes to Trak
- Remote electronic access

Tools

- Driver Diagram
- Process Map
- Dot Voting
- Survey before and after intervention

Effects of change

Scanning information direct to Trak proved impractical due to lack of appropriate staff and equipment.

Remote access allowed easy and quick review of previous radiotherapy treatment information, and appears to reduce the time for definitive decisions being made.

Lessons learned and message for others

It's important to involve stakeholders in the process in order to get 'buy-in' for change. The first idea may not be the best idea or practical to introduce, so don't be disheartened – move down your list and keep going!