# Reduction of Hypoglycemia in Postoperative Cardiac Surgery Patients on Insulin Infusions

## The Problem

Tight glycemic control leads to decreased mortality and morbidity after cardiac surgery. An undesirable outcome of insulin infusion can be hypoglycemia. While maintaining the effectiveness of our insulin protocol, we recognized the importance of improving the safety of this therapy.

#### Aim/Goal

Our goal was to maintain tight glycemic control while decreasing the incidence of hypoglycemia from 7% to 2%.

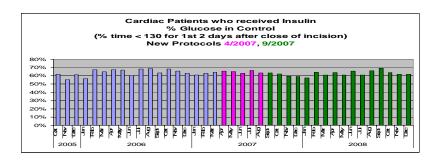
## The Team

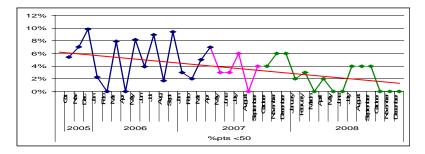
- Margie Serrano RN MS
- Mark Courtney NP
- Kamal Khabbaz MD
- The entire staff of the CVICU

# The Interventions

- Treatment raised glucose goal from 80-110 mg/dl to 90-120 mg/dl
- Tool-redesigned the protocol for easier use, emphasizing how to manage falling glucose
- Education-staff training about revised protocol
- Feedback loop-monthly feedback to nursing and medical staff, including detailed case review of each instance of hypoglycemia

# The Results/Progress to Date





### Lessons Learned

- Feedback and team flexibility lead to protocol adjustments, which yield improved outcomes.
- A multidisciplinary approach with clear communication among team members ensures focus and improves adherence to protocol.

# Next Steps/What Should Happen Next

- Continue to monitor results and adjust protocol to data.
- Improve effectiveness and safety of transition from insulin infusion to subcutaneous insulin throughout the postoperative course.





