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4-15-2022

Implementation of a Readiness Model for Kidney Transplant Patients

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Recommended Citation

McDonnell, Shelby; Vella, John; and Peters, Ardyce, "Implementation of a Readiness Model for Kidney Transplant Patients" (2022). *Costas T. Lambrew Research Retreat 2022*. 21.
<https://knowledgeconnection.mainehealth.org/lambrew-retreat-2022/21>

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Increasing Access to Kidney Transplantation: How Decreasing Time in Transplant Evaluation Led to More Timely Eligibility for Organ Offers

Implementation of a Readiness Model for Kidney Transplant Patients

Shelby Mc Donnell, MS; Ardyce Peters, MS; John Vella, MD, FRCP, FACP, FASN, FAST

Introduction

- The Maine Transplant Program evaluates patients for kidney transplant, and provides post-transplant and living donation services
- All patients must undergo evaluation and be approved by Transplant Committee Review (TCR) prior to being placed on the waitlist
- Our aim was to reduce time to listing by focusing on “just in time” testing while delaying more invasive, costly testing until closer to receiving an organ offer
- We consulted with the transplant team at Massachusetts General Hospital, which had successfully implemented a “Readiness Model” to achieve the same goals

Methods

- We identified **one** outcome measure and **two** process measures as goals:

Outcome: Time from referral to decision to list at TCR will be **reduced by 50%**

Process: Increase number of patients completing evaluation within 90 days of referral, and

Increase number of patients brought to TCR by **50%**

- New model went “live” on **October 1st, 2020**
- Data from Epic Reporting Workbench was used to track progress toward measure goals and was reviewed monthly at the transplant QAPI (Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement) meeting

Results

- We met the Outcome measure within 18 months of model implementation
- Although we did not set a specific benchmark, we increased our patients completing evaluation within 90 days of referral 15-fold within the first year
- We met and exceeded our goal for number of patients brought to TCR, and continue to do so into the second year
- **Figure 1** - we have nearly doubled our waitlist within 18 months
- **Figure 2** - median days from referral to decision continue to decrease over time, meeting goal after 18 months

Measures	GOAL	10/1/19 to 9/30/20 (Baseline)	10/1/20 to 9/30/21 (Post 12 mo.)	10/1/21 to 3/31/22 (Post 12-18 mo.)
Outcome: Time in days from referral to decision (median)	Reduce by 50%	341 days	233 days 32% decrease	144 days 58% decrease
Process #1: Increase count of patients who complete evaluation within 90 days of referral	Increase from baseline	2 patients 2% of patients (2/82)	62 patients 30% of patients (62/210)	35 patients 39% of patients (35/89)
Process #2: Increase number of patients brought to Transplant Candidate Review by 50%	Increase by 50%	66 patients	144 patients 118% increase	65 patients 50% increase (pro-rated)

Discussion

- The Readiness Model has helped us meet our objectives for reducing time to waitlist decision and shortening evaluation times, while increasing the number of patients brought to TCR for decision to list.

Figure 1.

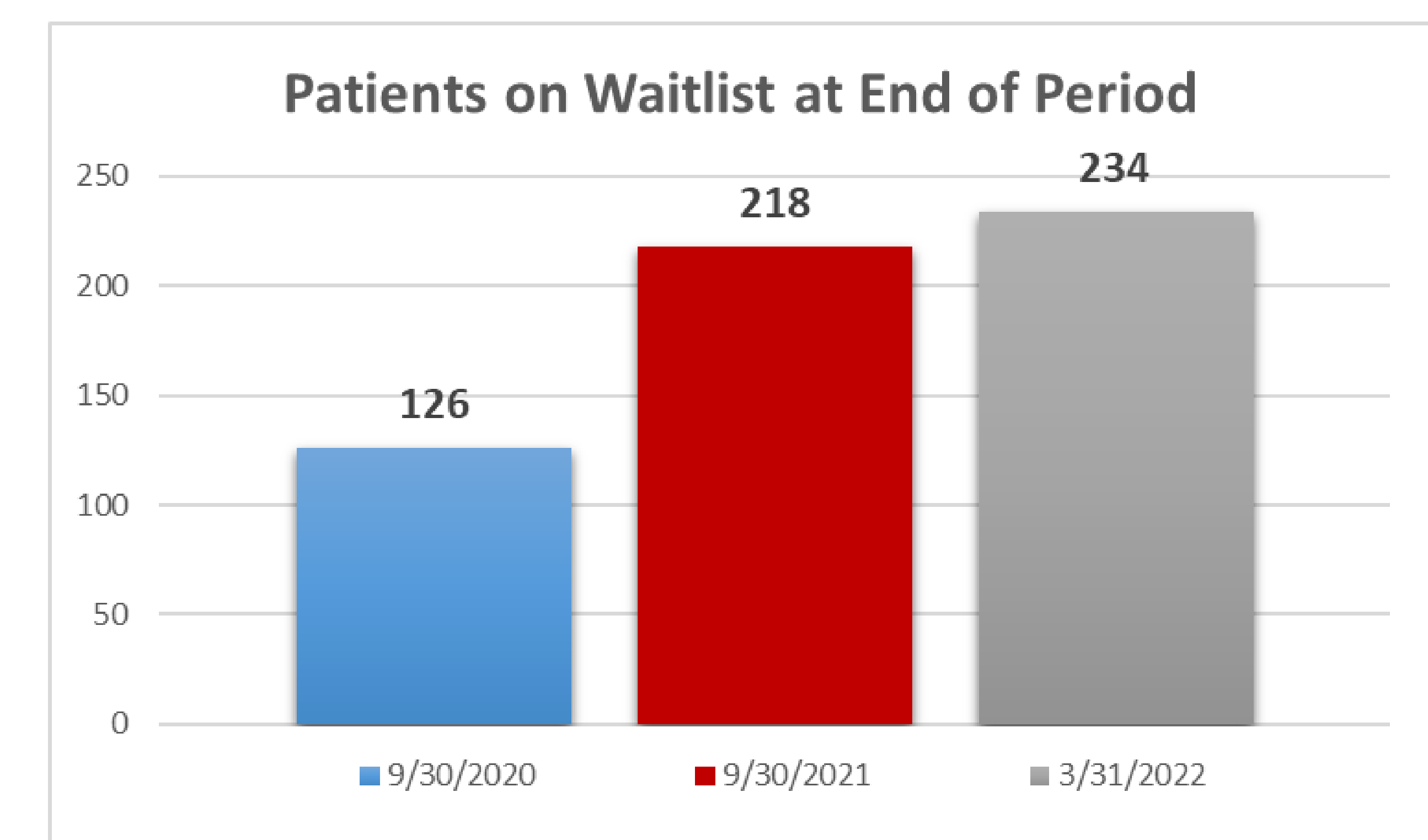
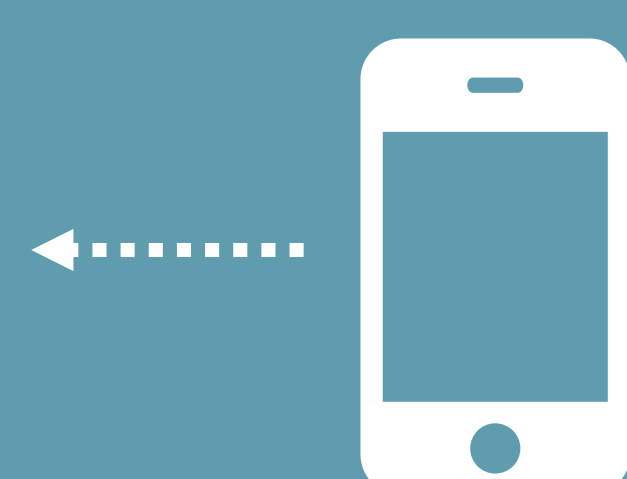
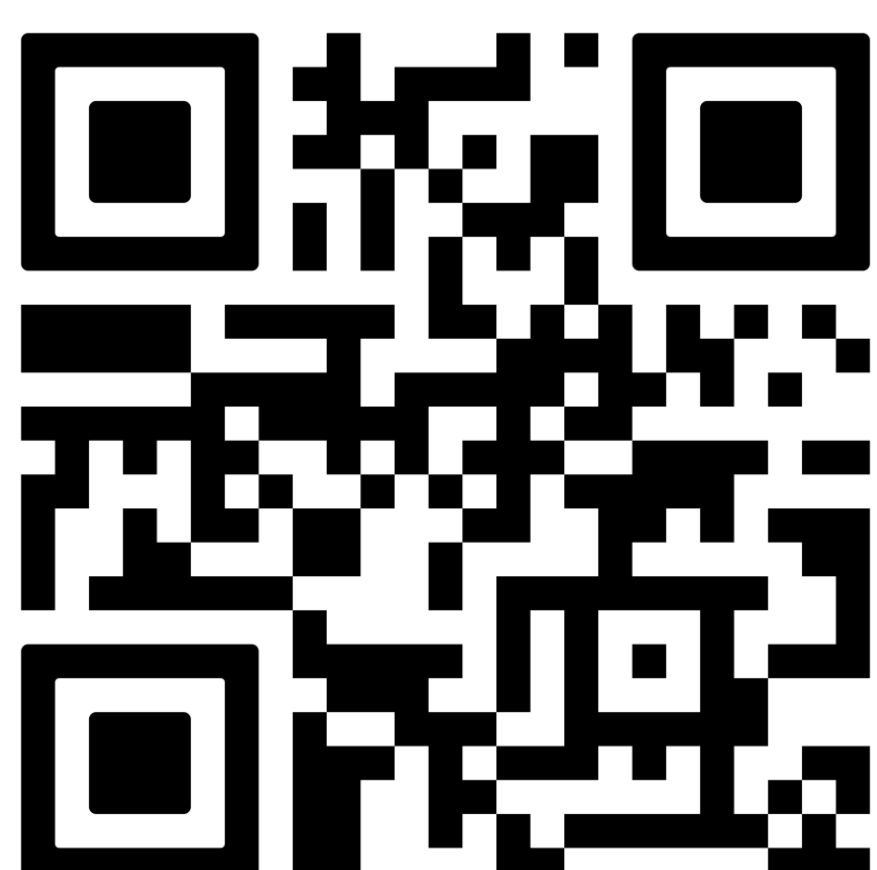
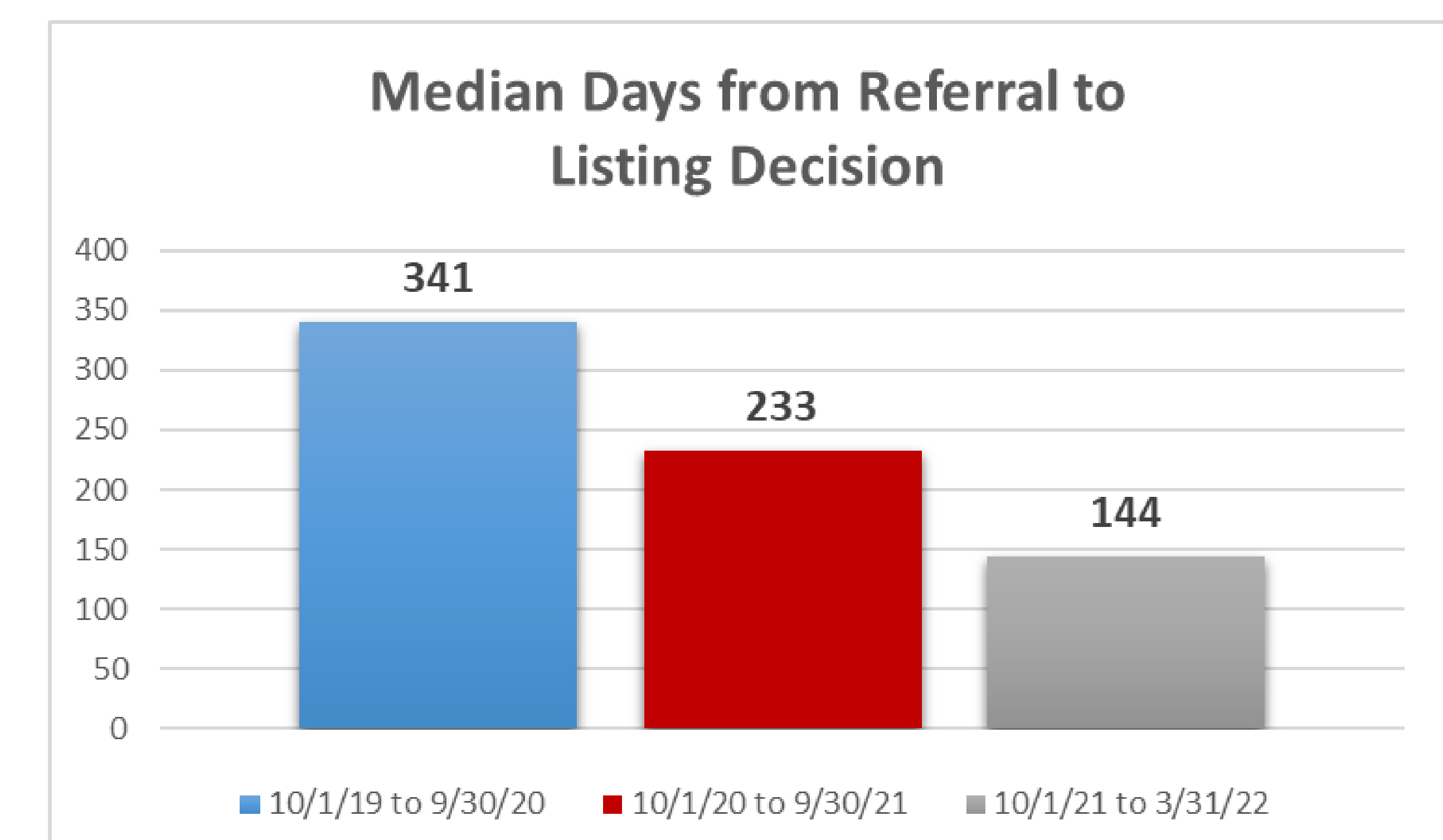


Figure 2.



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