




### RUN CHARTS

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then run charts can't be far behind.

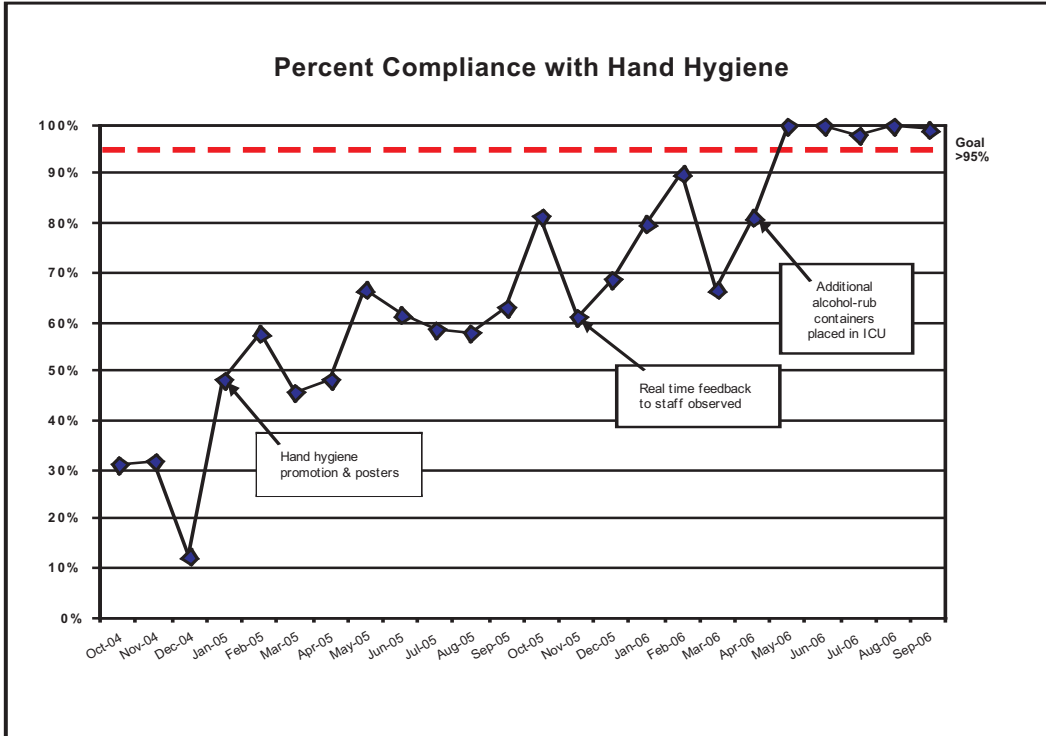
	<p><i>What is it?</i></p>	<p>A run chart is a graph of data over time and one of the single most important tools in performance improvement.</p>
	<p><i>Why use it?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It allows teams to study data for trends or patterns over a specific period of time.</li> <li>• It will help teams formulate goals by depicting how well or poorly a process is performing.</li> <li>• It will help define when changes are truly improvements by displaying a pattern of data that the team can observe as they introduce changes.</li> <li>• It's easy to develop and to interpret.</li> </ul>
	<p><i>How do I do it?</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Decide on a <i>process performance measurement</i> (i.e., order response time).</li> <li>2. Decide when (or the frequency) you will gather each <i>process performance measurement</i> (minimum 20 to 25 points).</li> <li>3. Create a line graph:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the horizontal axis, draw the time or sequence scale (i.e., mark the dates/times when you will evaluate the <i>process performance measurement</i>).</li> <li>• On the vertical axis, mark a reasonable minimum and maximum value for your <i>process performance measurement</i>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Plot the data:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plot a point for each <i>process performance measurement</i> above the date and time it was captured.</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Display the graph:             <p>Put it in an area where staff and physicians can observe the improvements over time. When a change is made in the process, staff will be able to observe how it affected the <i>process performance measurement</i>.</p> </li> </ol>

Two examples are shown on the next page.

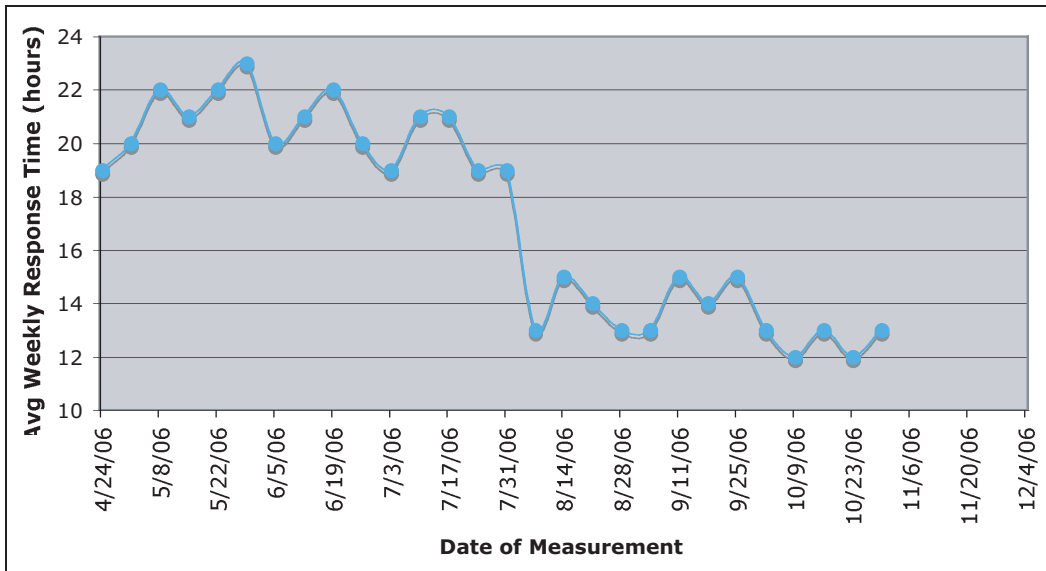


### Example 1:

This sample run chart graphs compliance with hand hygiene over time; note that it includes annotations showing which changes were introduced.



### Example 2:



<b>Process performance measurement</b>	Hours to respond to request
<b>Measurement frequency</b>	Weekly
<b>Reasonable minimum</b>	10 hours
<b>Reasonable maximum</b>	24 hours