

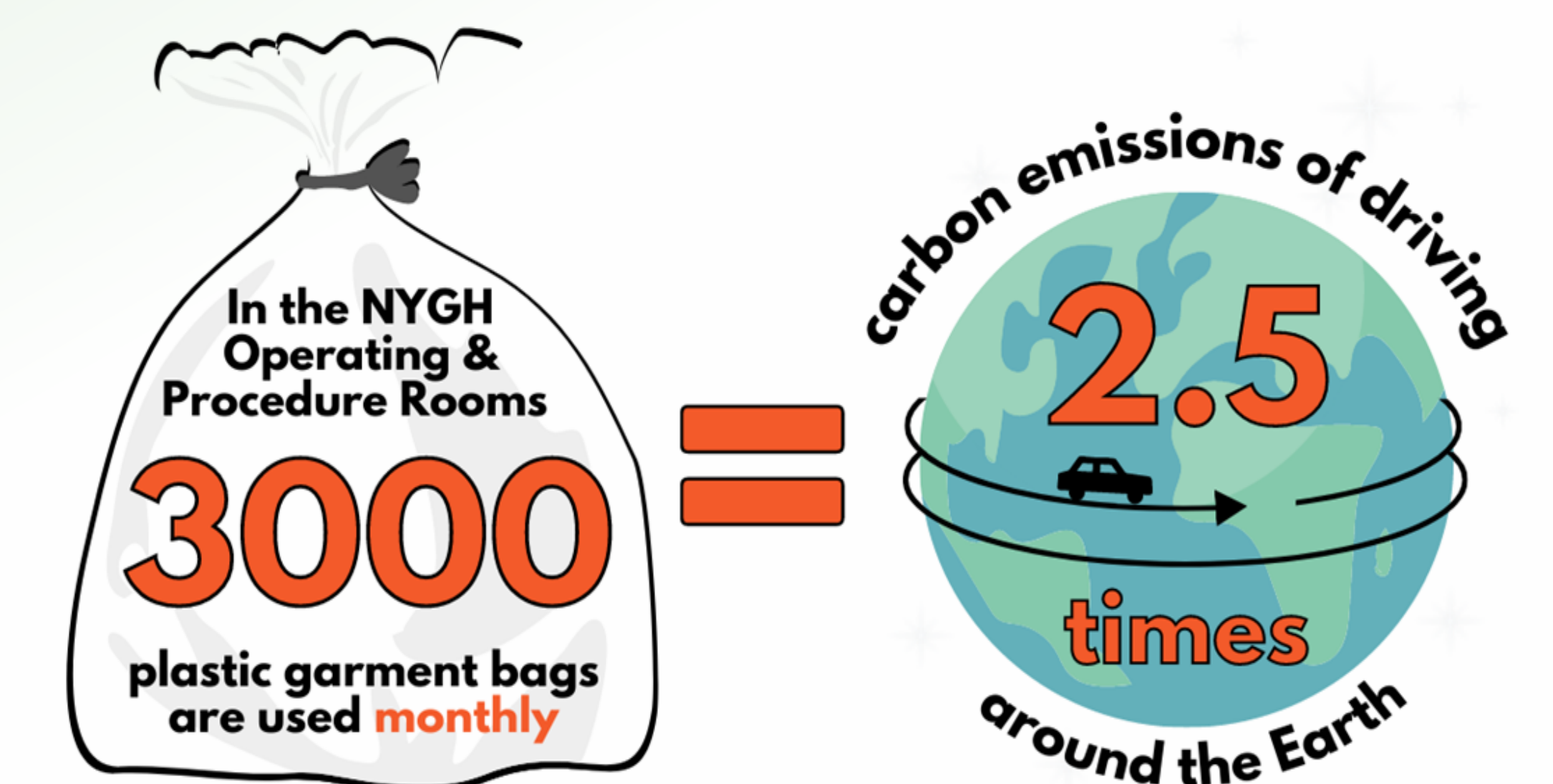


BRING YOUR OWN REUSABLE BAG (BYORB) A QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO REDUCE THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF SURGERY

Conclusion

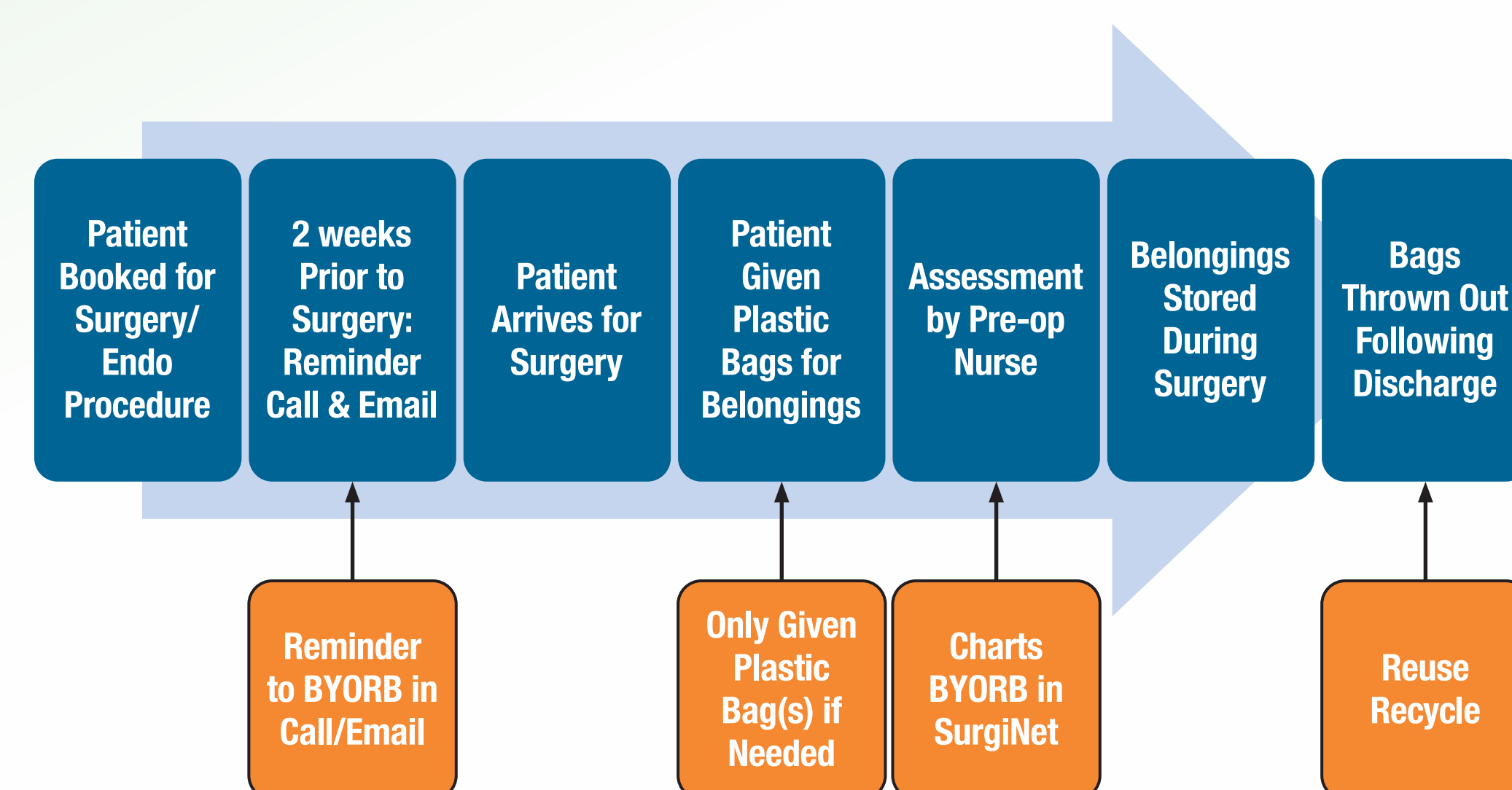
- Patient belonging bags are a source of peri-operative waste that can be easily addressed.
- BYORB leads to the **reduction** of plastic waste, carbon emissions, and costs to surgical programs.
- Inclusion of BYORB in the pre-procedural checklist generates sustainability patient-specific data that can inform change.
- BYORB is now part of the Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network's (ON-SQIN) "Cut the Carbon: Reducing Surgical Waste" 2023-2024 campaign and has been spread to 16 hospitals.
- BYORB is now included in the CASCADES Playbook, a national sustainability guide.
- BYORB is a good first step for any surgical program wanting to move towards a more sustainable process.

Significance Statement

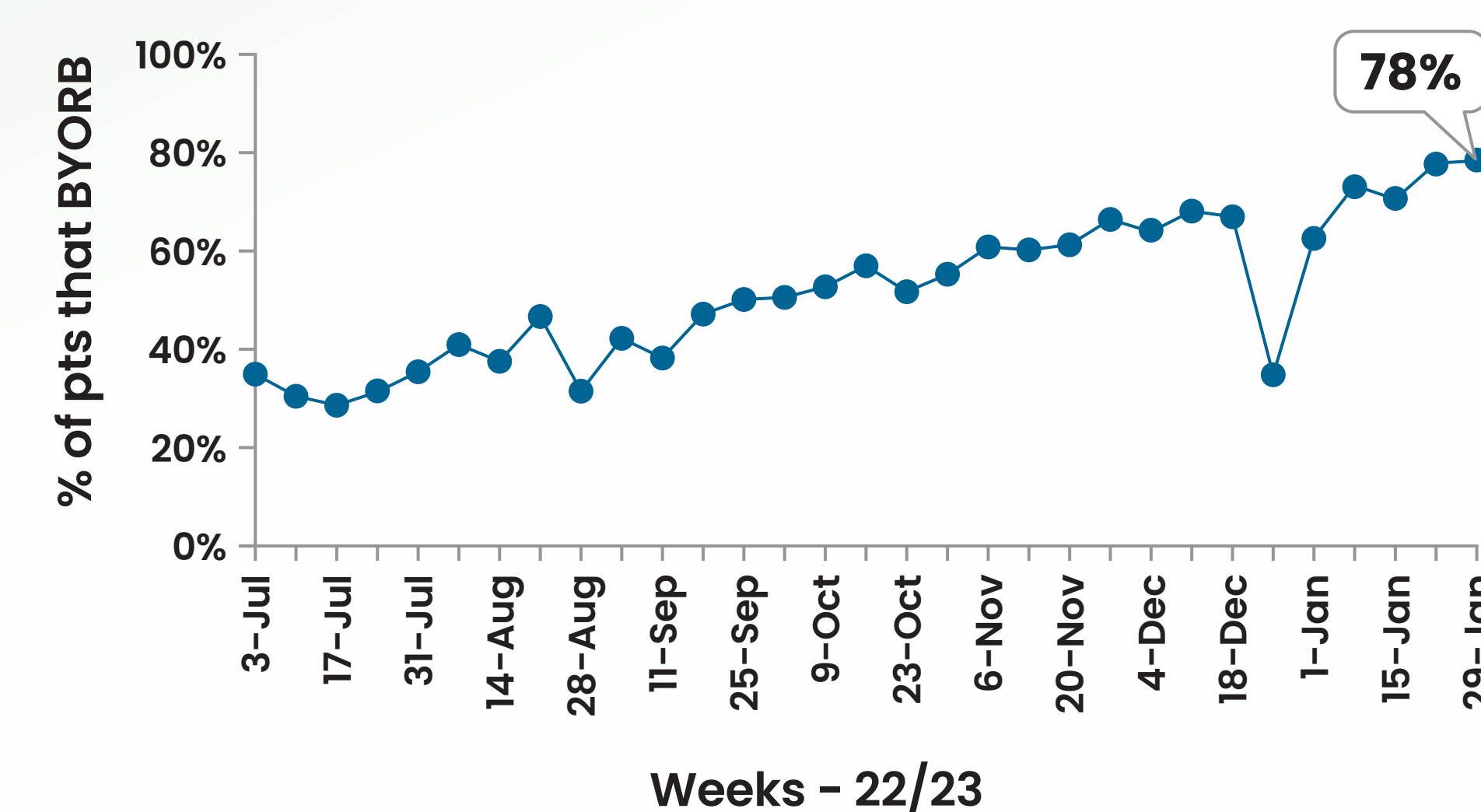


Producing estimated emissions of 20,760kg CO₂e

Our New Process



% of Patients that BYORB (In SurgiNet)



Data Source/Population and Results

- All surgery and endoscopy patients are asked to "Please bring 2 or 3 reusable bags for your belongings. Big enough for your shoes, clothes, and jackets."
- Communication is via email, phone calls, posters and pamphlets.
- Nursing staff document BYORB in our hospital system (SurgiNet) as part of the pre-procedure checklist.
 - Patients BYORB (Yes/No)
- **78%** of surgical patients bring their reusable bags.
- Estimated reduction of **13,840 kg** of CO₂e/month.
- Represents annual savings of **\$3396**.
- **90%** of patients and providers found participating in BYORB rewarding.

Lessons Learned

- Email communication from secretaries is the most important modality for communicating BYORB to patients.
- Collaboration, leadership support, and multidisciplinary teams are key to success.
- Patient and staff surveys are an invaluable tool to inform and socialize the BYORB initiative.