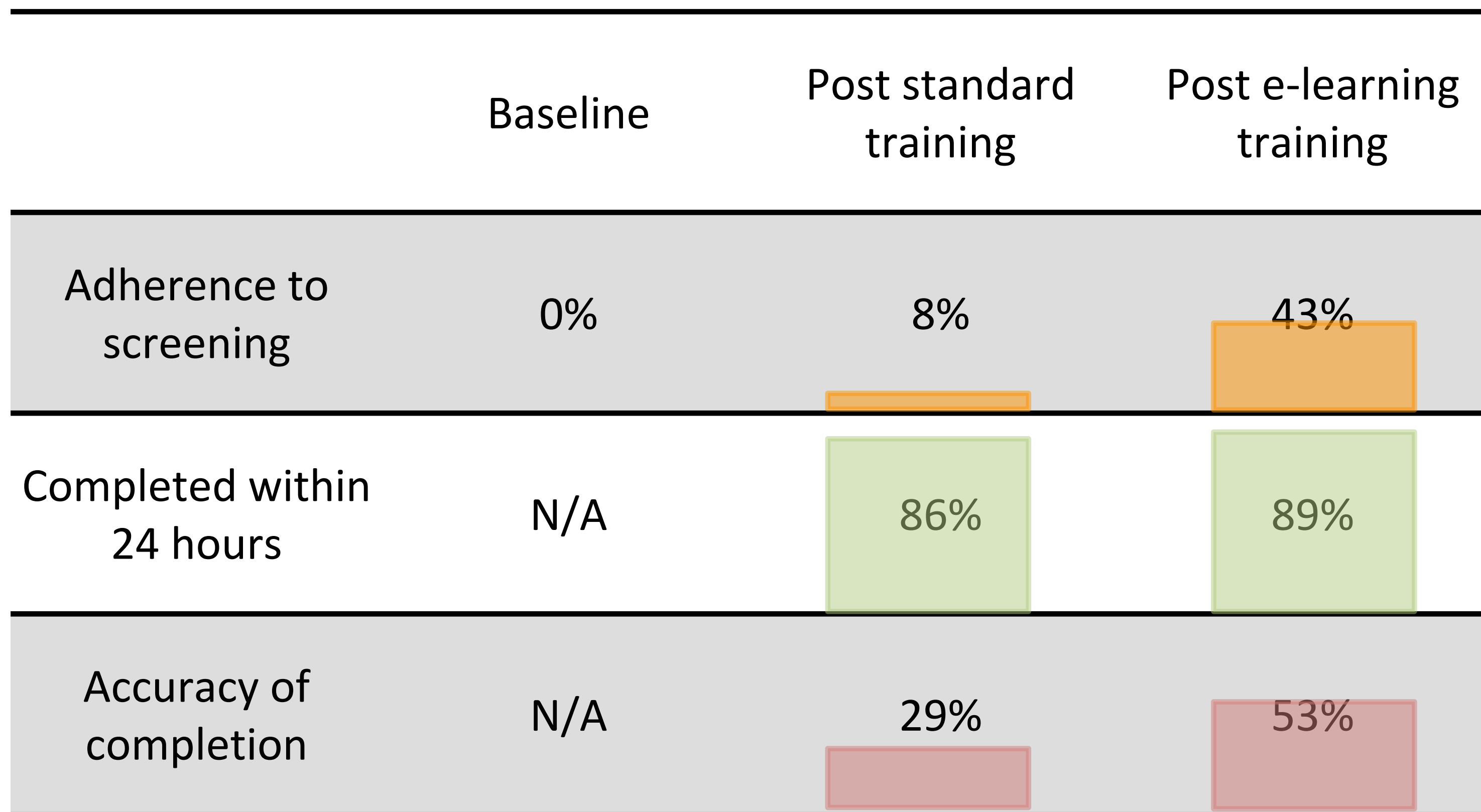


Does the implementation of an e-learning package to medical and nursing staff improve adherence to dysphagia screening?

- Dysphagia (swallowing impairment) is present in up to 67% of stroke patients
- Clinical practice guidelines recommend screening for dysphagia within 24 hours of stroke or TIA diagnosis, with a national screening benchmark of 67%
- Cabrini Health's speech pathologists therefore developed an e-learning package that included a face-to-face competency assessment by speech pathologists. The package is administered via Cabrini's online education system and comprises a pre-test, 7 interactive learning chapters with videos demonstrating various aspects of the ASSIST, and concludes with a post-test that requires 90% to pass



Does the implementation of an e-learning package to medical and nursing staff improve adherence to dysphagia screening?



- After face-to-face training, only 8% of stroke/TIA patients were screened for dysphagia, though a high majority (86%) of these were screened within 24 hours.
- 18 doctors and 27 nurses were invited for e-learning training
- 20% of these individuals (9/45) participated and subsequently achieved competency
- After e-learning, adherence to dysphagia screening improved to 43%, and 89% of those screened were screened within 24 hours of diagnosis
- Only 53% of these were completed correctly.



Does the implementation of an e-learning package to medical and nursing staff improve adherence to dysphagia screening?

- We successfully implemented an e-learning package to 9 medical and nursing staff
- The e-learning package did improve adherence to dysphagia screening. We also improved in completing those screens within 24 hours, as recommended by the 2010 National Stroke Guidelines
- Only 43% of stroke/TIA patients were screened, below the national benchmark of 67%
- It is uncertain whether the e-learning package itself improved adherence to screening, or whether this is an artefact of the process having been part of the stroke pathway

