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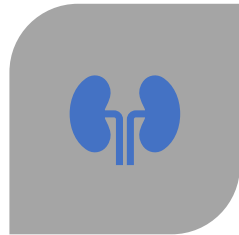
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Reducing Unnecessary Blood Tests

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PROBLEM STATEMENT
THERE IS AN OVER TESTING OF
BLOODS FOR PATIENTS IN
HOSPITAL

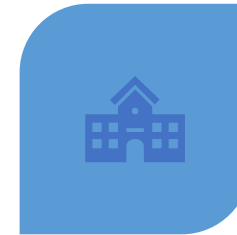


THIS CREATES PLASTIC WASTE
AND ALSO GENERATES
WASTEFUL CARBON
EMISSIONS VIA THE TESTING
PROCESS IN THE LAB



UNNECESSARY BLOOD TESTS
HAVE BEEN NOTED AS A DELAY
TO PATIENT DISCHARGE, THUS
INCREASING THEIR LENGTH OF
STAY

EQUATING TO 503KG CO2E PER
DAY (LONG STAY).



THE EXTRA TESTING ALSO HAS
A DIRECT IMPACT ON STAFF
RESOURCES AND PATIENT
EXPERIENCE



THE NUMBER OF REPEATED
AND UNNECESSARY TESTS ALSO
HAVE A FINANCIAL
IMPLICATION TO SERVICES

Aim

- **Reduce the level of unnecessary blood tests by 50% on each ward within 3 months, focussing on**
- Via support from Pathology and their data, investigate problem and identify 'red flags', e.g. multiple tests within a short period for patients for further clinical investigation
- Prioritise wards/departments to work with based on data and those with known delayed discharge trends – the latter is requested by the Discharge Board
- Engage with lead clinicians and enable them to educate their staff and to take ownership of the problem within their area.

Achievements

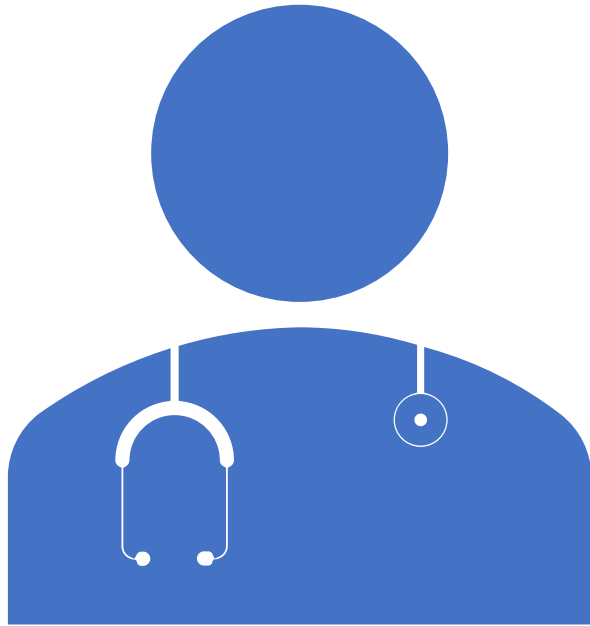
- Agreed a target based on prototype within Haematology in 2023/24
 - 50% reduction in unnecessary blood tests achieved following successful interventions via Quality Improvement Project
- Built relationships with Pathology and Pilot area, Care of the Elderly (COTE)
- First location arranged for Pilot project: 2x COTE Wards at Royal Gwent Hospital
 - Baseline data received and analysed
 - 40 patients reviewed, with 92 phlebotomies conducted and 306 test sets processed by Pathology
 - Results to undergo Clinical review to determine quantity of unnecessary tests
- Investigated double testing between Primary (GP) and Secondary Care (Outpatients) to identify impact
 - Less than 1% of tests identified as duplicates
 - Agreed gains would be minimal for this branch of the project
- Investigated IT assisted options to support project, e.g. notifications on CWS
- Identified the CO₂e and £ for each test, e.g. FBC, U&E

Key Enablers from Spread & Scale Academy

- Aiming to provide information and tools but empowering our collaborators to drive changes as appropriate in their own areas – they know their own processes better than we do
- Building in celebration and recognition of efforts as important and valuable aspects of the project
- Connection with related project team from Cardiff & Vale, providing peer support, motivation and knowledge sharing

Barriers

- Conflicting priorities, e.g. Winter Sprint
- Pathology resources
- Behavioural habits
- Ensuring patient safety is not compromised



What we need to progress

- Clinical time for analysis of patients' records to understand if test was necessary
- Education and confidence building of junior staff
- Comms
- Buy in from other COTE wards