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Aims and hypothesis

The blood tests pathway was established in March 2022 to develop a systematic approach to the management of all blood test results taken by the physical health clinic at NTaR.

This project was undertaken to review the pathway with respect to the timely medical review of tests, feedback to patients and assurance of documentation and completion of an action plan.

Background

1 in 20 people worldwide over 14 years lives with alcohol use disorder, while around 1 in 100 people have psychoactive drug use disorders. The North East of England continues to have the highest rate of deaths relating to drug poisoning and drug misuse (163.4 deaths per million people and 104.1 per million, respectively) (ONS, 2022). Therefore, it is essential that staff in addiction health settings meet patients’ physical as well as addiction/mental healthcare needs.

The NTaR blood test results pathway involved a dedicated team conducting physical health checks and blood tests as well as checking the electronic laboratory system and forwarding any abnormal test to a dedicated inbox for doctors to check. On reviewing the blood results, doctors put an action plan on the electronic patient records for keyworkers to action or, if necessary correspond with General Practitioners.

Methods

A review of the pathway protocol was conducted in December 2022. 4 standards were identified. In addition, the sampling frame was identified (1128) and a suitable sample size (70) selected via systematic sampling using n-15th person. A review of stored emails, documentation and letters was conducted. Descriptive analyses of data followed by qualitative exploration of results was completed with the physical health team. The Quality Improvement (QI) Project was registered locally. No funding was required.

Result

We noted that there has been an increase in physical health checks and blood tests completed since the pathway inception in March 2022.

Blood tests completed were reviewed (100%) within a 6 hours reaction time from notification (98.6%). Action plans were documented (100%) with over a third (84.3%) of action plans completed.

Conclusion.

The pathway had helped identify and address biochemical abnormalities for patients with substance use and alcohol disorders.

It was noted that not all action plans were executed. For those not completed this related to patient being transferred to acute care, admitted or not engaging with services after tests were carried out, and in some instances, clients were subsequently discharged from service due to non – engagement.

Additional processes to reduce patient safety risks were disseminated within the partnership structure with plans for implementation and reaudit made. There was no previous nor national comparison for this data.

In relation to this presentation, we declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

Figure 1: NTaR Physical Health Tests conducted (2022)

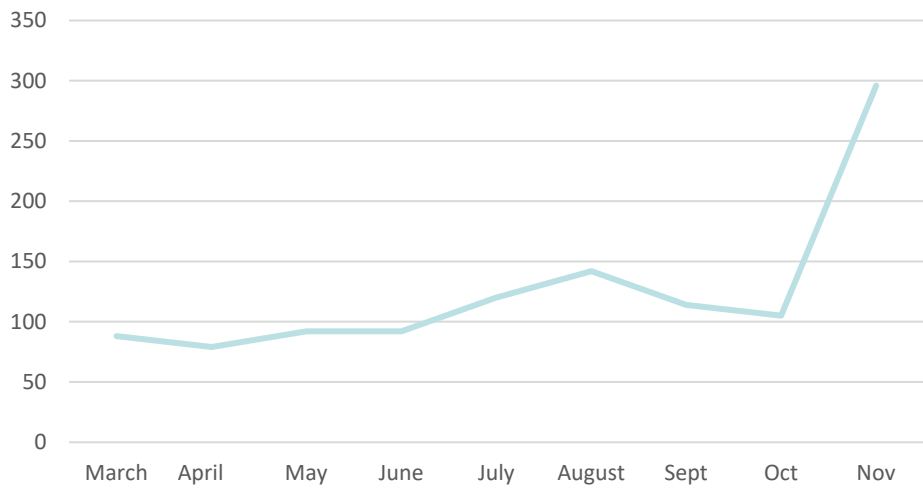
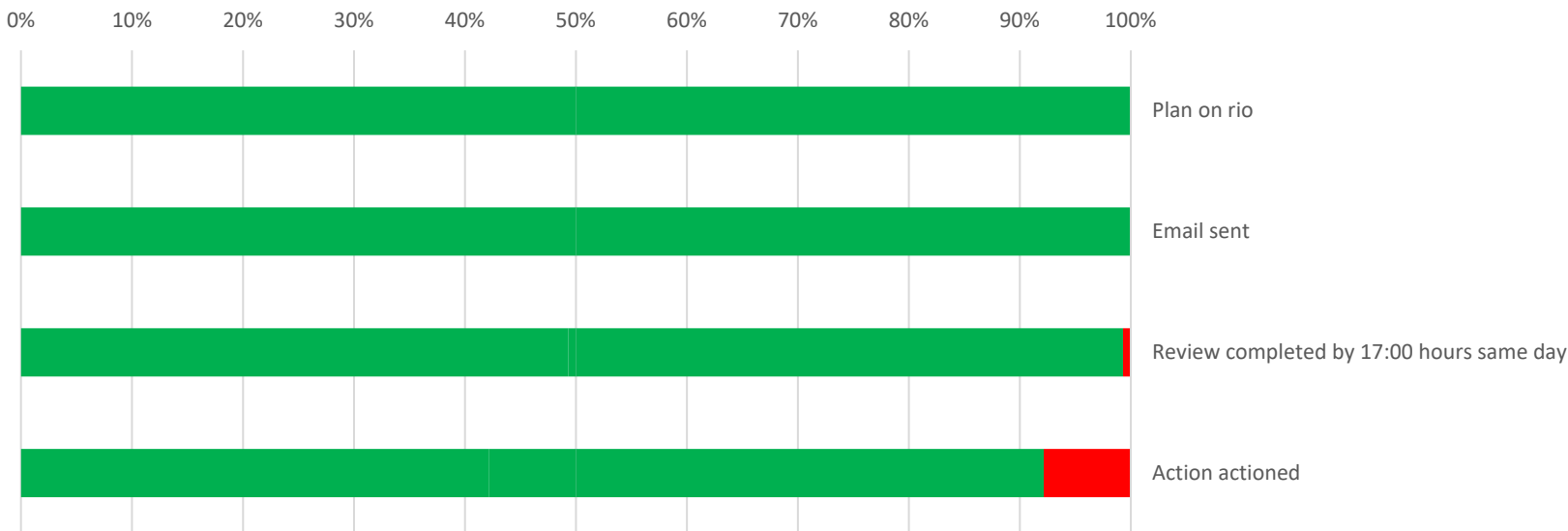


Figure 2 : NTaR Physical Health Service Parameters Assessed



References

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