

# Improving 14 hour paediatric consultant review through regular clinical audit

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## Introduction

NHS England produced a document titled Seven Day Services Clinical Standards originally in 2017 and the most recent version was updated in February 2022.

Standard 2 of this document states that all emergency admissions must be seen and have a thorough clinical assessment by a suitable consultant as soon as possible but at the latest within 14 hours from the time of admission to hospital. Ormskirk hospital was identified by the Care Quality Commission as being an outlier for this measure and this project was established to deliver an improvement.

## Audit Method

- The methodology for this project was to instigate regular retrospective snapshot audits of paediatric patients who attended A&E in the previous month and measure performance against the standard set by NHS England.
- Initially the project was undertaken monthly with a small sample to measure progress. Frequency decreased as the results improved.
- Important to feedback results to consultant group.
- Once improvement started to occur we identified individual cases which failed the 14 hour target and investigate the reason

## Standard

**All emergency admissions must be seen and have a thorough clinical assessment by a suitable consultant as soon as possible but at least within 14 hours from time of hospital admission.**

## Assurance Levels

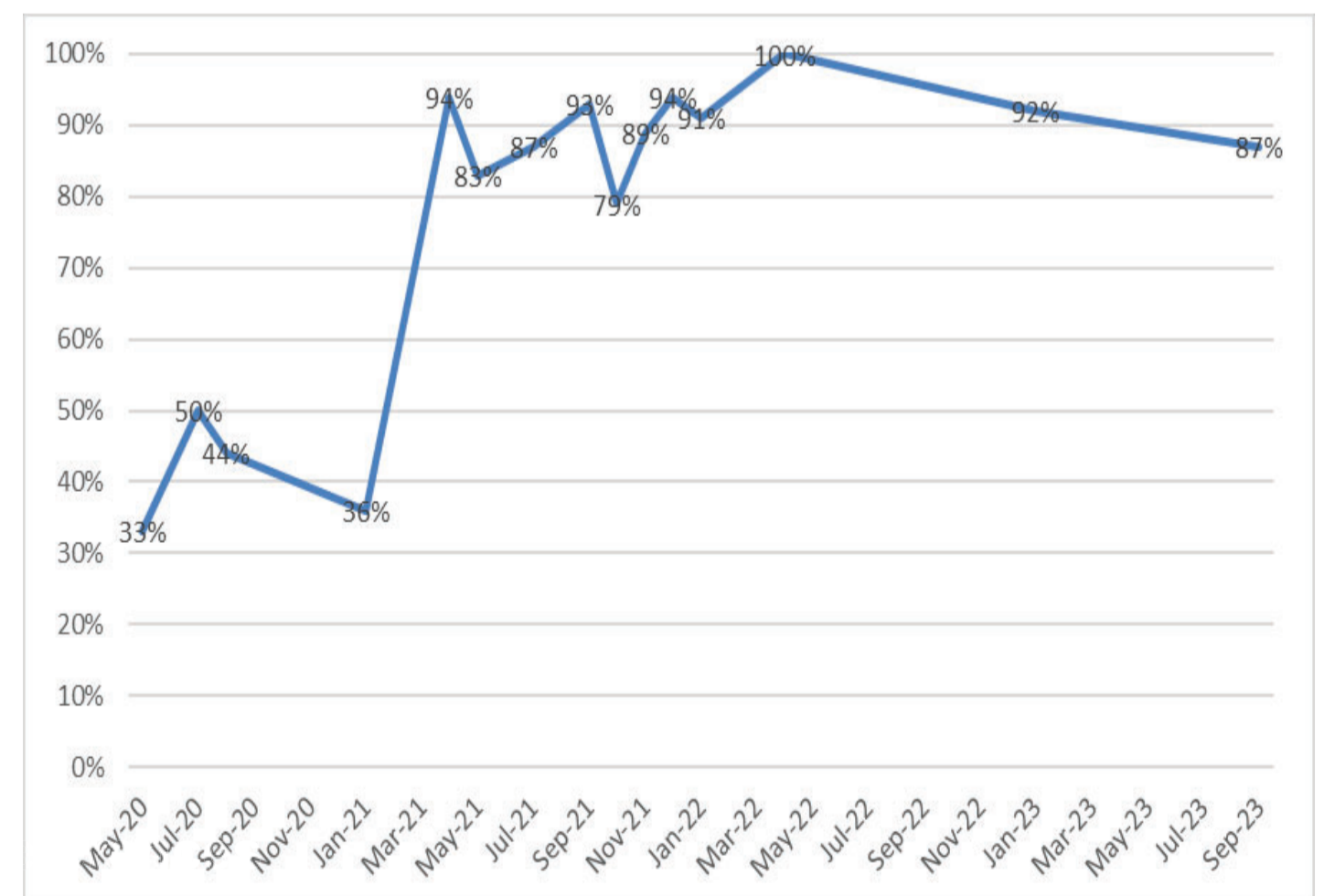
Assurance levels are used within the hospital

Assurance Level	Calculation of Assurance
Full	To be used when 90-100% of standards have achieved a score of 90% or above
Significant	To be used when 65-89% of standards have achieved a score of 90% or above
Limited	To be used when 35-64% of standards have achieved a score of 90% or above
Very Limited	To be used when 0-34% of standards have achieved score of 90% or above

## Improvement Journey

- 1 - Get the basics right – date and time documented clearly
- 2 - DATIX when patient breeches 14 hour
- 3 - Review the frequency of ward rounds – previously only one ward round at 10am in the morning
- 4 - From April 2021 with new rota and 7pm ward rounds
- 5 - Business case to explain need for new consultants
- 6 - Appoint new consultants
- 7 - Keep auditing even when improvement is evident

Date	Sample Size	Assurance Level
May 2020	17	24% (4/17) Very Limited
July 2020	16	50% (8/16) Limited
August 2020	11	44% (4/9) Limited
January 2021	14	36% (5/14) Limited
April 2021	18	94% (17/18) Full
July 2021	30	87% (26/30) Significant
Sept 2021	30	93% (28/30) Full
October 2021	30	79% (23/29) Significant
November 2021	35	89% (31/35) Significant
December 2021	35	94% (32/35) Significant
January 2022	35	91% (32/35) Full
February 2022	25	80% (20/25) Significant
April 2022	11	100% (11/11) Full
January 2023	25	92% (23/25) Full
Sept 2023	15	87% (13/15) Significant



1. NCEPOD (2007) Emergency admissions and journey in the right direction?
2. RCP (2012) Delivering a 12 hour 7-day consultant presence on the acute medical unit
3. NHS England (2022) Seven Day Services Clinical Standards