



Healthcare  
Improvement  
Scotland



# SPSP Perinatal and Paediatric Programmes National Learning Session

Leadership to support a culture of safety

30 October 2024

Leading quality health and care for Scotland



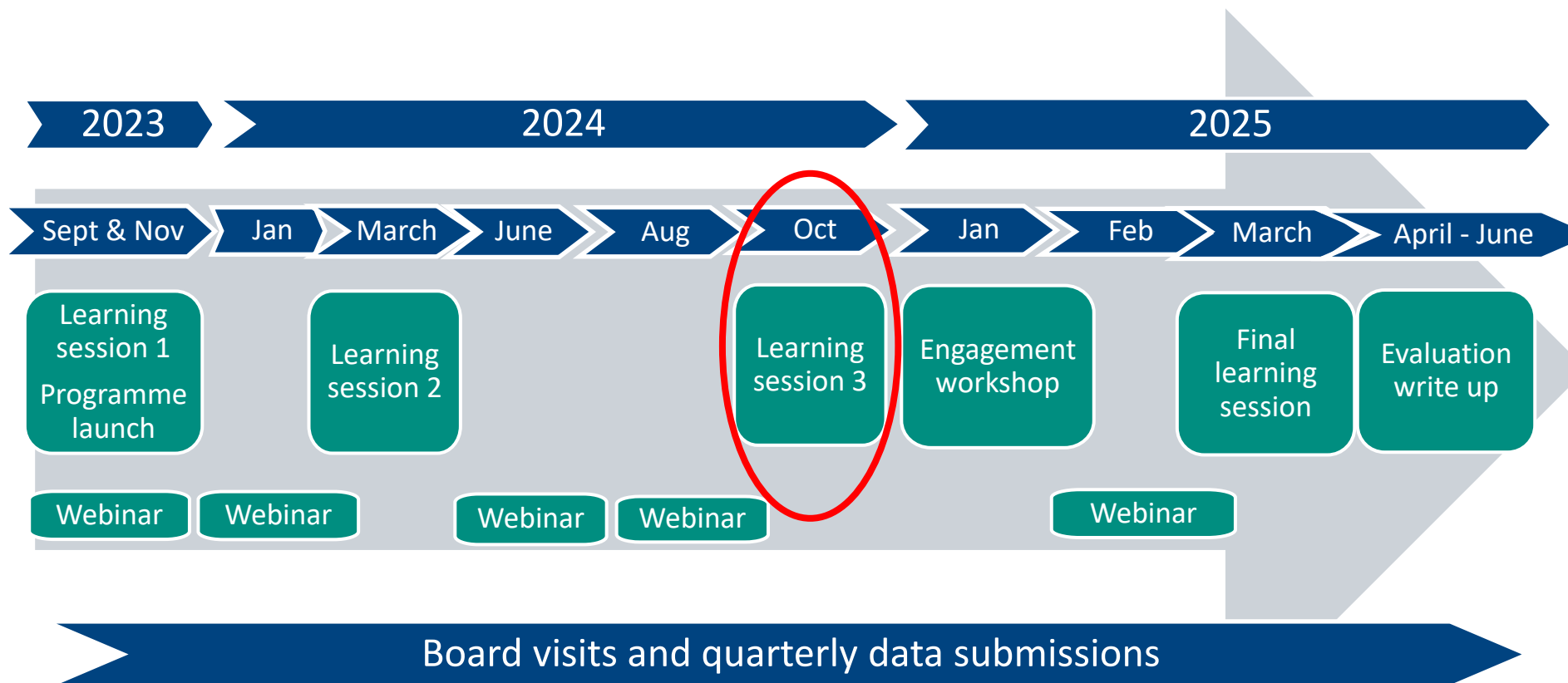
# Focus on escalation

Sonia Joseph

Strategic National Clinical Lead for  
Child Health



# Programmes timeline



# SPSP Perinatal and SPSP Paediatric Activity



3 paediatric data submissions  
2 perinatal data submissions



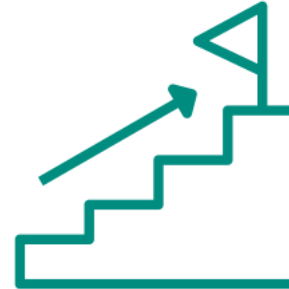
22 paediatric board visits completed  
17 perinatal board visits completed



Racialised health  
inequalities webinar



Learning session 3  
30 October 2024



IHI improvement scale

# Driver Diagram

## What are we trying to achieve...

To reduce harm from deterioration by improving the recognition, response and review of the deteriorating child and young person\*\*

By [locally agreed %]  
by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

*\*Essentials of Safe Care*

*\*\*Measurements may include existing Excellence in Care data*

## We need to ensure...

Person-centred care\*

Recognition of acute deterioration

Standardised, structured response and review

Safe communication across care pathways\*

Leadership to support a culture of safety at all levels\*

## Which requires...

Patients, families and carers are listened to and included

Person-centred care planning

Anticipatory care planning & CYPADM

Discussions with families are well managed

Observations using PEWS (Scotland)

Action on staff concern

Action on patient, family and carer concern

Timely review by appropriate decision maker

Assessment for causes of acute deterioration

Escalation

Regular review and assessment

Interdisciplinary teamwork and collaboration\*

Use of standardised communication tools\*

Effective communication in different situations\*

Psychological safety for staff\*

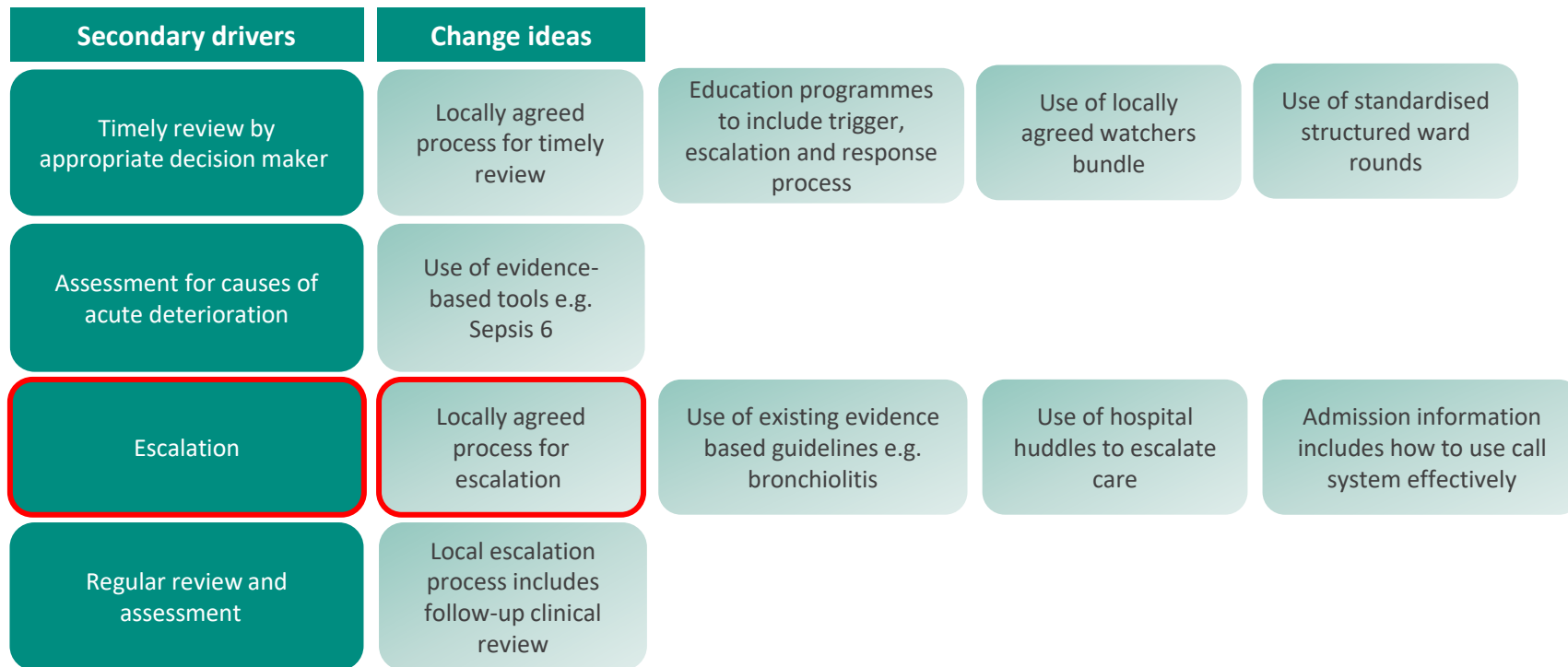
Staff wellbeing\*

Safe Staffing\*

System for learning\*

# Primary Driver

## Standardised, structured response & review



# Evidence, tools and resources to support escalation

Tim Shearman  
Improvement Advisor



# Escalation

## Guidelines:

- SIGN 167: Care of deteriorating patients
  - 16 and over only
  - Structured response tools, critical care outreach, and prehospital response
- NICE Guideline on suspected sepsis
  - Covers under 16's
  - Recommends senior review, critical care outreach and informing the consultant if no response within one hour



**NICE** National Institute for  
Health and Care Excellence



# Escalation

## Resources:

- RCPCH safe system framework for children at risk of deterioration: Responding to deterioration
  - Involve children, families and carers in decisions including communication protocols
  - Structured communication model for escalation e.g. SBAR
  - Awareness of negative attitudes towards escalation that may be downgraded on review
  - Clear plans for treatment/clinical monitoring and review
  - Situational awareness
  - Discharge and transfer protocols



# References

- [SPSP Paediatrics Resources to Support Paediatric Care](#)
- [SIGN 167 Care of deteriorating patients](#)
- [NICE 51 Suspected Sepsis](#)
- [RCPCH Safe system framework for children at risk of deterioration](#)





Healthcare  
Improvement  
Scotland



# Deteriorating child and young person: focus on escalation

Sam Fredricksen-Freer, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Laura McCulloch, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

**Our purpose**

Working together to achieve the healthiest life  
possible for everyone in Ayrshire and Arran



# Deteriorating child and young person: Focus on escalation.

Samantha Fredriksen Freer, Clinical Nurse Manager, Acute Paediatrics

Laura McCulloch, Senior Charge Nurse, Acute Paediatrics

**Our values**

Caring Safe Respectful

# What is the pebble in our shoe?

- Unexpected death in Paediatrics triggers an automatic SAER
- Key findings revealed similar themes of good practice and areas for improvement.  
retrospective audit of 10 random patients that were transferred to ITU in 2023.
- We found our pebble:

Accurate PEWS and  
Escalation



# The Quality Improvement Journey



# Our Journey so far....



## Creating Conditions

Sense of urgency.

- Why the change was needed.
- Eva's Story

Guiding Coalition

- Team
- Guidelines

Communicate a clear vision

- Vision set at study days.
- Education



## Understanding Systems

The escalation pathway

- Understanding the process of escalation.

Staff feedback of system

- Lack of awareness of pathway
- What are the barriers to the process
- Attitudes towards the system

Human Factors

- Miscalculated PEWS
- Busy unit and was distracted.
- Capacity to review patients.



## Developing Aims

By January 2026, 95% of patients with elevated PEWS score of 5 and above will be escalated to Advanced Paediatric Nurse Practitioners or middle grade doctors and above for an urgent medical review, aligning with the Scottish Patient Safety Programme for Paediatrics.

# Version one of Escalation Sticker



Testing  
Changes

## Escalation of Care

Escalation requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME OF ESCALATION \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ hrs

### 1. Reason:

- ☐ Elevated PEWS Score. PEWS of \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Staff Concern  
☐ Parent Concern

2. Request for medical review made to \_\_\_\_\_ (APNP/Middle Grade/ Consultant)

3. Nurse in Charge aware ☐ Signed by NIC \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is a watcher's bundle required? Yes ☐ No ☐

### To be filled in by Reviewer:

5. Time of Patient review: \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please document details of the review below in patient's clinical notes. |



# Escalation Sticker



Testing  
Changes

## Escalation of Care

Date & Time of Request		Signature/Stamp	
1.	Reason:	<input type="checkbox"/> Elevated PEWS (PEWS of _____ ) <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Concern <input type="checkbox"/> Parental Concern	
2.	Request made to:	Name: _____ (APNP/Middle Grade/Consultant)	
3.	Nurse in Charge Aware?	NIC Signature/Stamp	
4.	Watcher Bundle Required?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
TO BE FILLED IN BY REVIEWER			
5.	Review	Date & Time of Review	Signature/Stamp
Please document details of the review below in patient's clinical notes			

## Training & Evaluation from cycle one

- Study day for all members of nursing staff with focus on PEWS training and escalation of care.
- Process of escalation NIC versus Medical Staff?
- Name change of sticker?
- Update of PEWS escalation to meet local requirements
- Plan of care documentation



## Other Work we are doing:

- **Development of Aspen Suite**
- **SEPSIS Sticker**
- **HDU competency document**
- **PCAR course**
- **Annual PEWS Training Programme**
- **Clinical Risk Group**
- **Resuscitation Scribe Booklet**



# Patienttrack (eObs) Paediatrics

Billy Gibson, NHS Tayside

Lisa Law, NHS Tayside

# Why move to electronic observations?

NHS Tayside's Digital Strategy 2022 – 2027

"Helping people live longer, healthier and happier lives through digital technology"

# Why move to electronic observations

- Saving lives and preventing harm by providing 'live' patient data intelligence to identify deteriorating patients early
- Establishing a single electronic patient record and closing the digital gap
- Supporting remote/mobile working
- Reducing transcriptions errors and the need for repetition
- Improving clinical decision support capabilities
- Providing real-time access to patient data at the point of care improving compliance with observation protocols/clinical assessment guidelines
- Improving standardisation of vital signs/clinical assessments approaches
- Improving accessibility and legibility of patient data
- Improving communication between health care staff
- Reducing the burden, bias, and risk from manual audit functions
- Ability to create person centered scoring

# Introducing electronic observations

- Engaging with the senior clinical team
- Developing the system to meet our needs
- Testing the application
- Education and Engagment with the wider clinical team
- Understanding and acting on feedback prior to Go Live
- Supporting during the period of change
- Listen to user feedback

Ward 29

1 ↑

Patienttrack, Child  
CHI: 0101161468  
Female, 01-Jan-2016 8y  
Bed: B1BED4 Assessments: 2  
Flags: STOOL7, Seizure Chart  
2 days ago

3 ↓

Onpass, Hepmaseven  
CHI: 0707071194  
Male, 07-Jul-2007 17y  
Bed: B5BED4 Assessments: 2  
Flags: IV-INSERT  
2 days ago

A

1 ↓

Birthday1, Check  
CHI: 0512110011  
Female, 05-Dec-2011 12y  
Bed: - Assessments: 2  
2 days ago

1 ↓

Boy, baby  
CHI: 1010210029  
Male, 10-Oct-2021 35m  
Bed: -  
2 days ago

1 ↔

Boy, One  
CHI: 0101110029  
Male, 01-Jan-2011 13y  
Bed: -  
2 days ago

4 ↑

CHI: 1111160011  
Female, 11-Nov-2016 7y  
Episode : Emergency Admission  
Ward : NW29  
Bed : -  
Flag : -

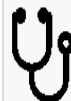
female seven, Test



Obs Profile  
30 MIN

EWS Regime  
PEWS 5-11 Years

Observation Due  
2 days ago



Team: -  
Specialty: Paediatrics  
Responsible Clinician:  
-



Raise Attendance



View Charts

Due



Record Observations



Tasks

Daily Pressure Ulcer Risk Assess...

1 overdue 0 near due



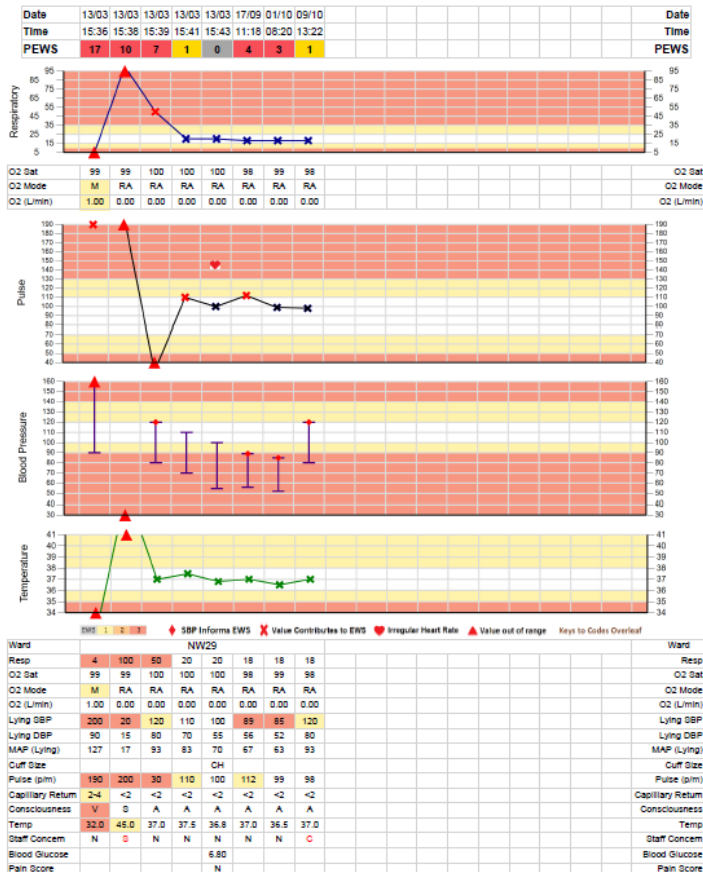
Rapid Response

0 Rapid Response calls in the last 24 hours





PEWS Over 12 Years



# Lessons learned

Engagement with the clinical teams is key

Understand the patient journey

Listen to feedback to ensure system works for users

Use of other systems can impact on data (TrakCare)

Change takes time

Ensure WiFi is reliable

# Escalation of deterioration

Automatic calculation of PEWS score

Highlights increasing and decreasing scores

Filter screen to quickly identify "at risk" patients

Ability to auto-page in future

# Ward view

Name	EWS ↓	Location	Obs. Due	Obs. Profile	Flags	EWS Regime
Lightyear, Buzz	7 ↑	Ward 29	08:42	15 MIN		PEWS 12-23 Months
female seven, Test	4 ↑	Ward 29	08:55	30 MIN		PEWS 5-11 Years
Girl, Bonnie	3 ↑	Ward 29	08:56	30 MIN		PEWS 2-4 Years
Onpass, Hepmaseven	3 ↓	Ward 29	08:50	30 MIN	IV-INSERT	PEWS Over 12 Years
Patientrack, Child	1 ↑	Ward 29	09:23	1 HR	STOOL7, Seizure Chart	PEWS 5-11 Years
Boy, One	1 ↔	Ward 29	09:21	1 HR		PEWS Over 12 Years
Birthday1, Check	1 ↓	Ward 29	09:21	1 HR		Personal: PEWS Over...
Boy, baby	1 ↓	Ward 29	09:24	1 HR		PEWS 2-4 Years
Child, One Year	1 ↓	Ward 29	09:22	1 HR	DAILY WEIGHT	PEWS 2-4 Years
Girl, One	1 ↓	Ward 29	09:26	1 HR	Seizure Chart	PEWS Over 12 Years


A large, solid orange circle on the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge.

# Data

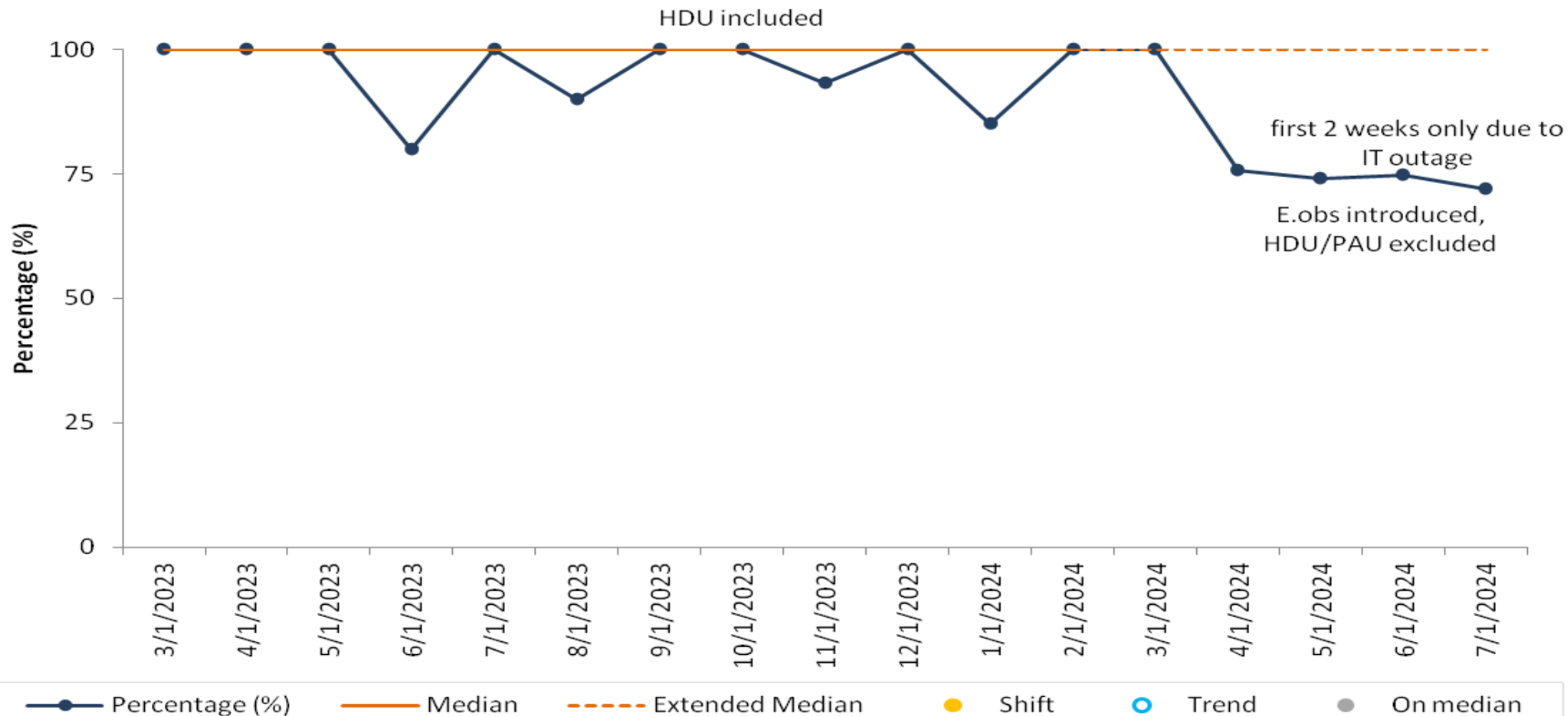
## Pre implementation

- Variation on data collected
- Reliant on physical collection
- Time away from clinical work

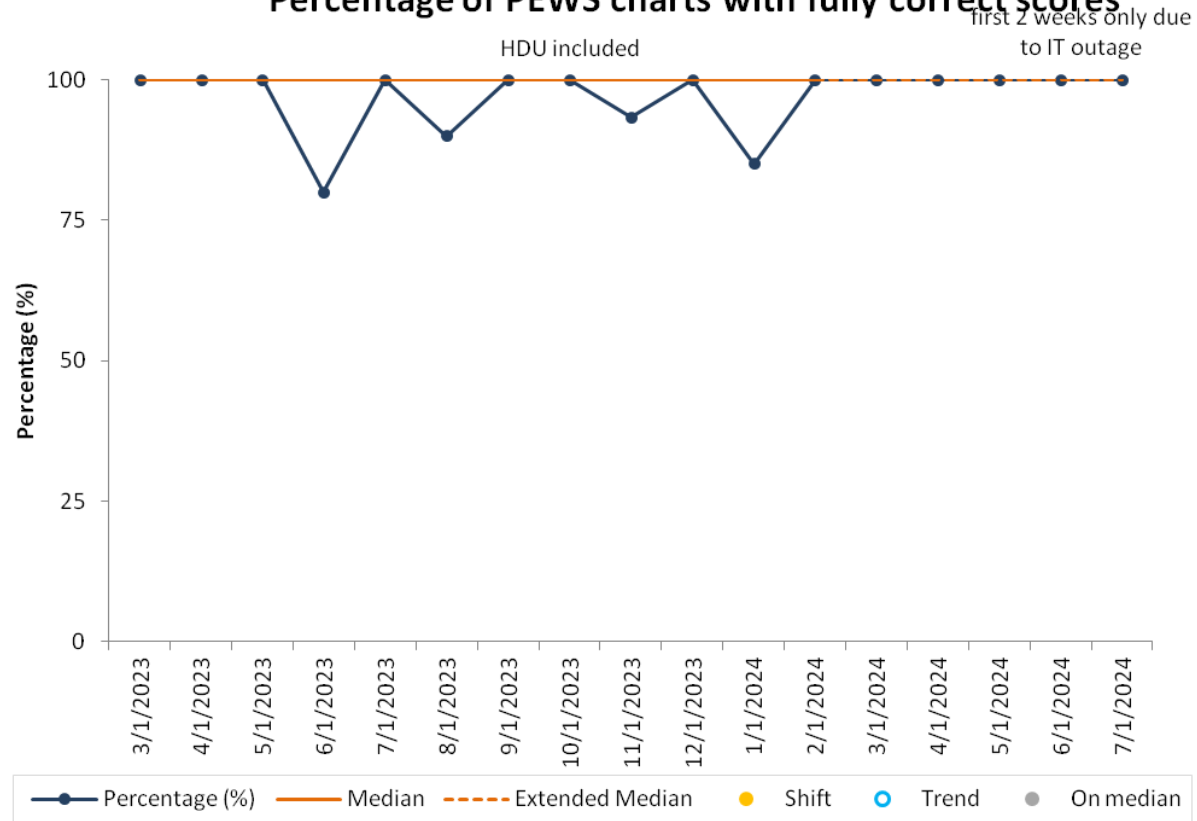
## Post implementation

- No variation
  - Collated from E obs system, eliminating human error
  - Highlights very quickly areas for improvement
- 
- Three thick, blue, curved lines in the bottom right corner, arranged in a diagonal pattern from bottom-left to top-right.

## Percentage of PEWS charts with fully correct observations taken at correct frequency



## Percentage of PEWS charts with fully correct scores



# Feedback from Nursing & Medical

Love the ability to  
review charts  
remotely

Easy to view  
charts and see  
trends

Handheld devices  
would be  
preferred

Ability to "Star" my  
own patients

Training material  
easy to  
understand

System advising  
more frequent  
observations than  
clinically required

System easy to  
use

Initially felt anxious  
about using eObs  
but much happier  
now

Would be good if  
digital system  
"spoke" to each  
other



# Next steps

---

Introduction of visual prompts at each observation completion

---

Further assessments – Combined lines and Neuro Obs

---

Introduction of electronic observations into paediatric HDU

---

Wireless transfer of observation data

# Structured response

Tim Shearman  
Improvement Advisor



# Structured response

## What?

- An agreed framework or process for responding to deterioration

## Why?

- Could offer decision support
- Improves shared understanding

## How?

- Recognise
- Respond and Review
- Reassess

# Structured response mapping tool

## Using the Mapping Tool

1. Facilitated session running through the clinical case from recognition to response
2. Identify three steps in the process the team consider have most impact
3. Focusing on the three steps identified explore what makes them work

		<b>What we currently do and who usually does it</b>
		Walk through what usually happens in the ward or clinical area for each principle
	<b>Principle</b>	
<b>Recognition</b>	Trigger locally agreed response if patient meets at least one of: NEWS2 Clinical Concern Locally agreed trigger(s)	
	Who needs to know? (How are they notified?)	
<b>Response &amp; Review (A to E Assessment)</b>	What is the working diagnosis?	
	What are the patient's wishes? (prompt to review for ACP/TEP)	
	Are any further investigations required?	
	Who else do I need to call? (prompt to seek senior/critical care support as appropriate)	
	What is the management plan?	
	What is the observation frequency plan?	
	What is the timeframe and/or criteria for reassessment?	
	What is the Triage decision? - Consider best location for the patient	

V1.2 22112022

		<b>What we currently do and who usually does it</b>
	<b>Principle</b>	
<b>Reassess</b>	Are you still concerned about the patient? (review recognition triggers)	
	Is the working diagnosis still correct?	
	What is the management plan now?	
	What is observation frequency plan now?	
	Does the TEP need updated?	Structured
	What is the triage decision now?	
	When are the team going to review again?	

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## Next steps

### Prioritising identified topics

Please populate the table below with the potential opportunities for improvement identified in your conversation above. The prioritisation table below can help inform your conversations about which QI project should be progressed next.

Potential QI projects	Potential Impact (0-10)	Effort (0-10)	Priority Score = Impact – Effort
Example topic: Reduce time from recognition to review	6	3	3

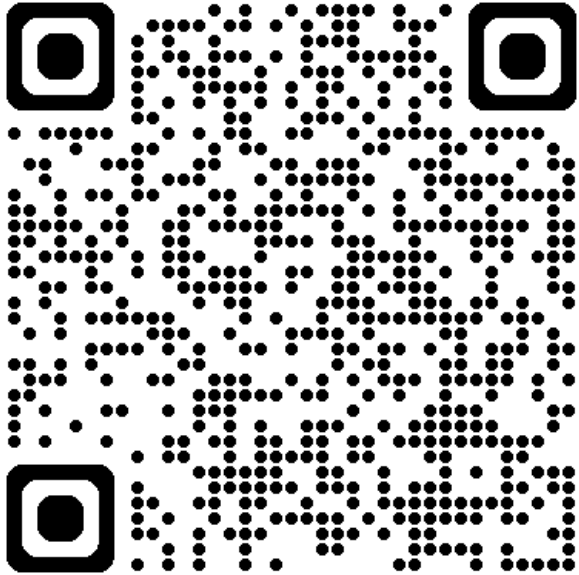
### Where to start

You may wish to connect with your QI team to discuss which of the priority areas you are planning to focus on first.

Clinical Scenario Storyboard adapted from: Scottish Centre for Simulation (2013) [Scenario Storyboard Tool](#)  
Mapping tool adapted from: Human Performance Oil and Gas (2020) [Walk Through Talk Through Template](#)

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# Structured response mapping tool



SPSP Acute Adult Deteriorating  
Patient web page

Principles of a Structured Response

Structured Response to Deterioration Mapping Tool

# Structured response mapping tool...

Make sure everybody  
knows each other

Work through this high-  
level version of the tool  
together ↓

Discuss if/how this tool  
could be used in your  
board

## Understanding your response to deterioration...

Who should be  
involved?

## Principles of structured response

Principle	What do we do currently?	How could we improve?
How do we recognise?		
How do we respond?		
How do we reassess?		

# Keep in touch

**Twitter:** @online\_his

**Email:** his.spsppp@nhs.scot

**Web:** [healthcareimprovementscotland.scot](http://healthcareimprovementscotland.scot)