

Improving rates of Clozapine physical health screening

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Quality issue / initial problem

South West community mental health team offers treatment and support to individuals diagnosed with a serious mental illness. Antipsychotic medication is a treatment prescribed to patients however this can increase physical health risks as serious as stroke, cardiac problems and sudden death. Mental health patients die up to 20 years earlier than the general population with antipsychotic medication being a contributing factor. NICE and SIGN guidelines recommend baseline and annual physical health checks to all patients prescribed antipsychotic medication. For the purpose of the project, We chose to focus our attention on patients prescribed Clozapine treatment. Our physical health screening rates have been very poor for the past few years. We planned to look at the way health screening was made available to this patient group.

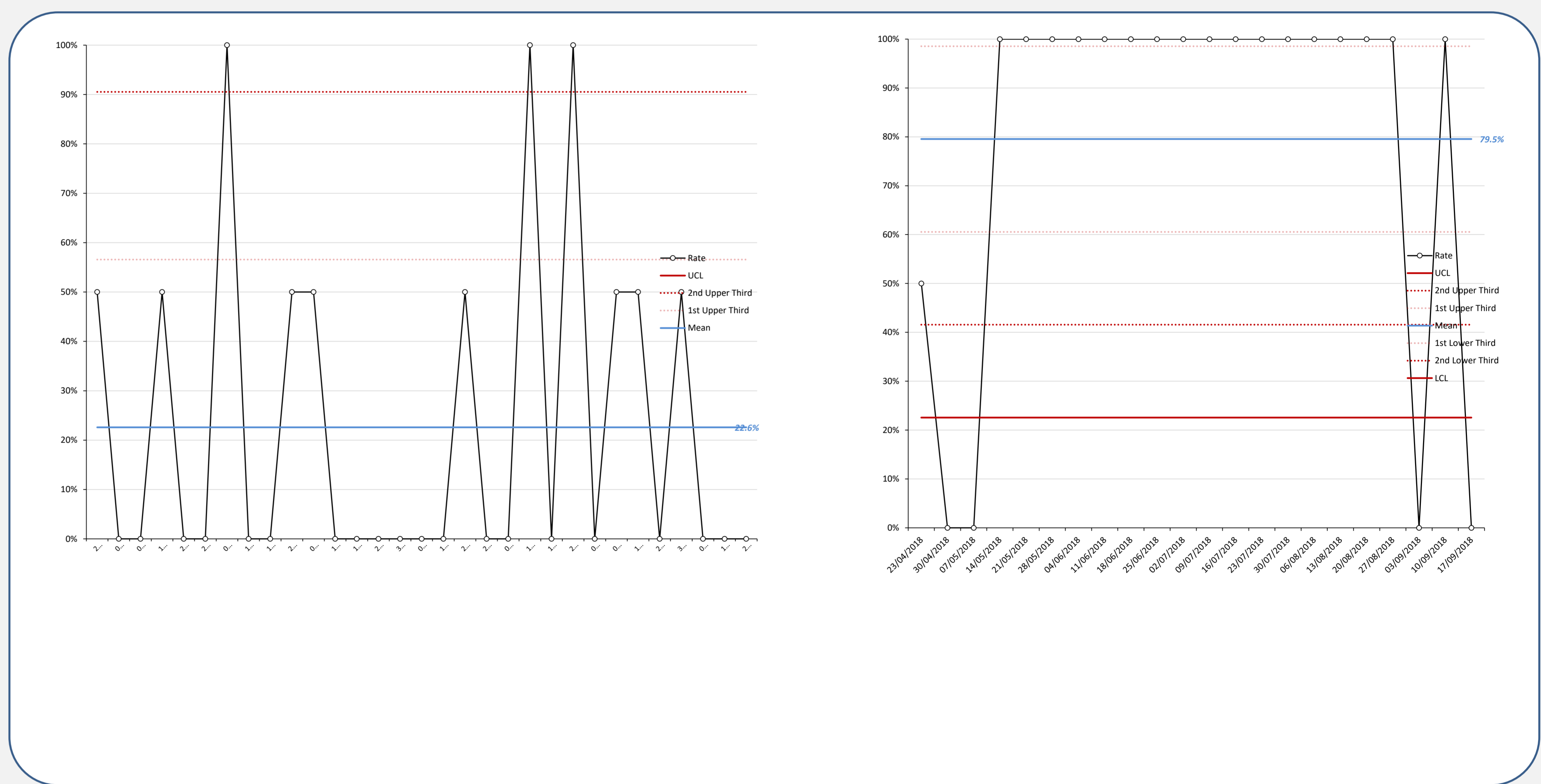
Specific aim

To increase the percentage of physical health screening of Clozapine patients in South West Edinburgh, part 2.

Measurement of improvement

Our new implemented system of screening improved our screening rates by 56.9% over the same 16 week period, 2017/2018.

Next step, to sustain this improvement and adopt the same system of screening to the patients who attend the Royal Edinburgh Hospital clinic.



Tests of change

- Move the clinic to the hospital
- Screening in the blood clinic
- Assertive outreach rather than appointments

Tools

- Process map
- Driver diagram with staff
- Run chart

Effects of change

- More consistency with the running of the clinic.
- More cost effective to have a nurse or support worker running the clinic.
- Negotiate room availability with the hospital on a regular basis.

Lessons learned and message for others

- Support from managers and medical staff.
- Keep team involved using the QI tools but focus on enthusiastic change-makers.
- Record all data as you go along. Difficult to go back and record.
- Use the QI charts to show results and suggest change, people cannot argue with positive data.