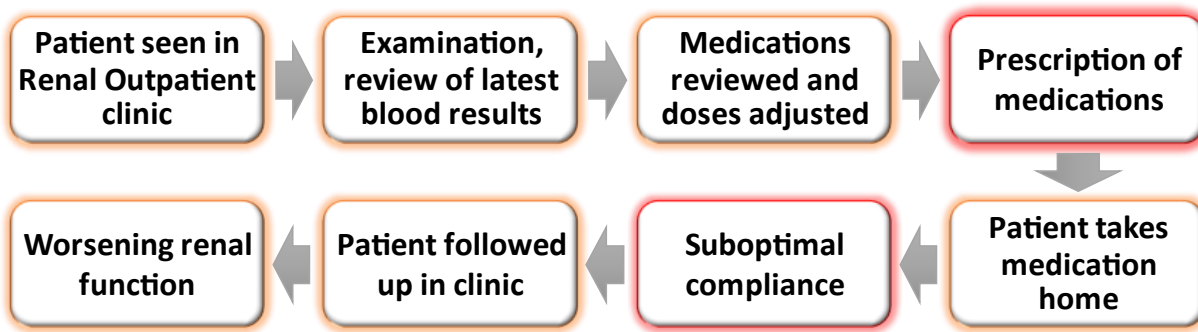


PROBLEM STATEMENT

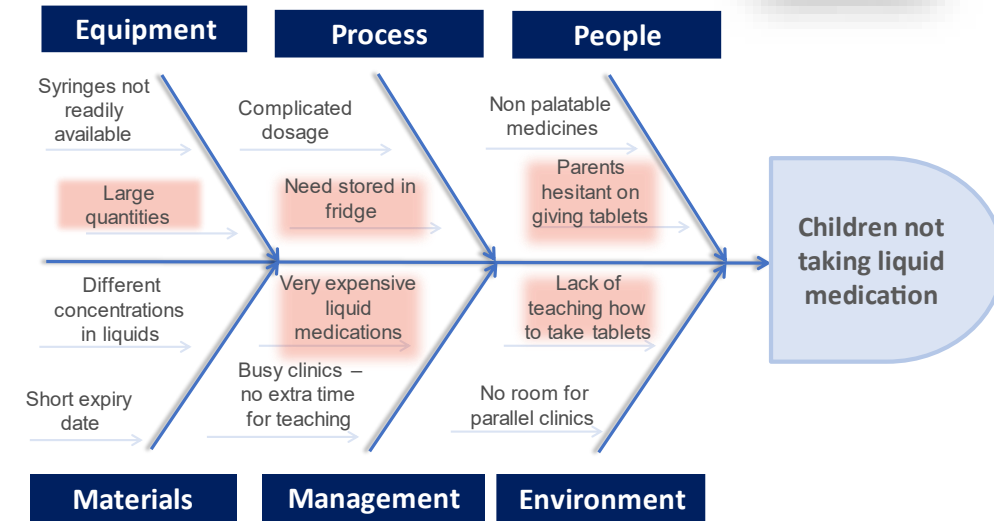
We prescribe **liquid medications** for children every day. Many **don't like them** and don't take them. Some would take **tablets** more reliably if only we helped them to do this!



High-level Process Map



Fishbone diagram



Measurement Definition

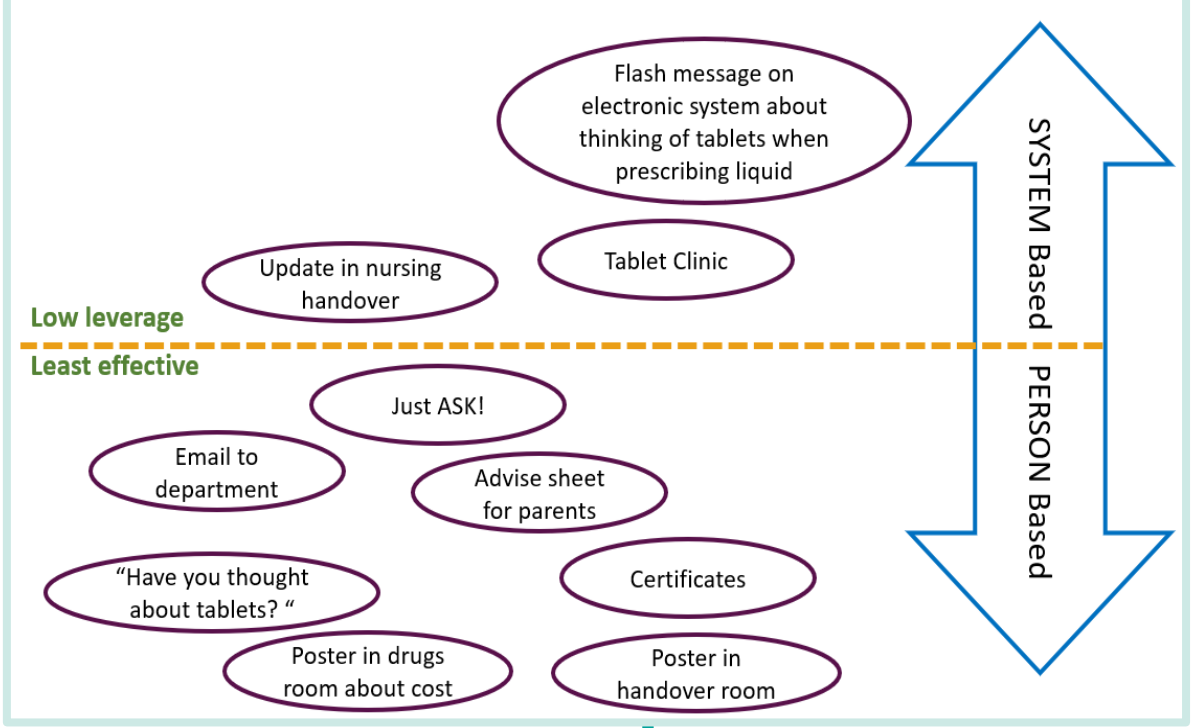
Chosen measure
For each child seen in the hospital (Children's Assessment Unit - CAU and Inpatient Unit): measure how many of the liquid medications they are taking can be swapped to tablets/capsules

Inclusions
Children seen in the CAU and inpatient unit aged 5-12 yrs who are prescribed at least one oral medication

Exclusions
1) Children < 5 yrs old
2) Children > 12 years
3) Children with swallowing or developmental difficulties who can't physically take tablets

Sampling method and frequency
Weekly collection of data of children who are prescribed at least one oral medication

Hierarchy of effectiveness for interventions

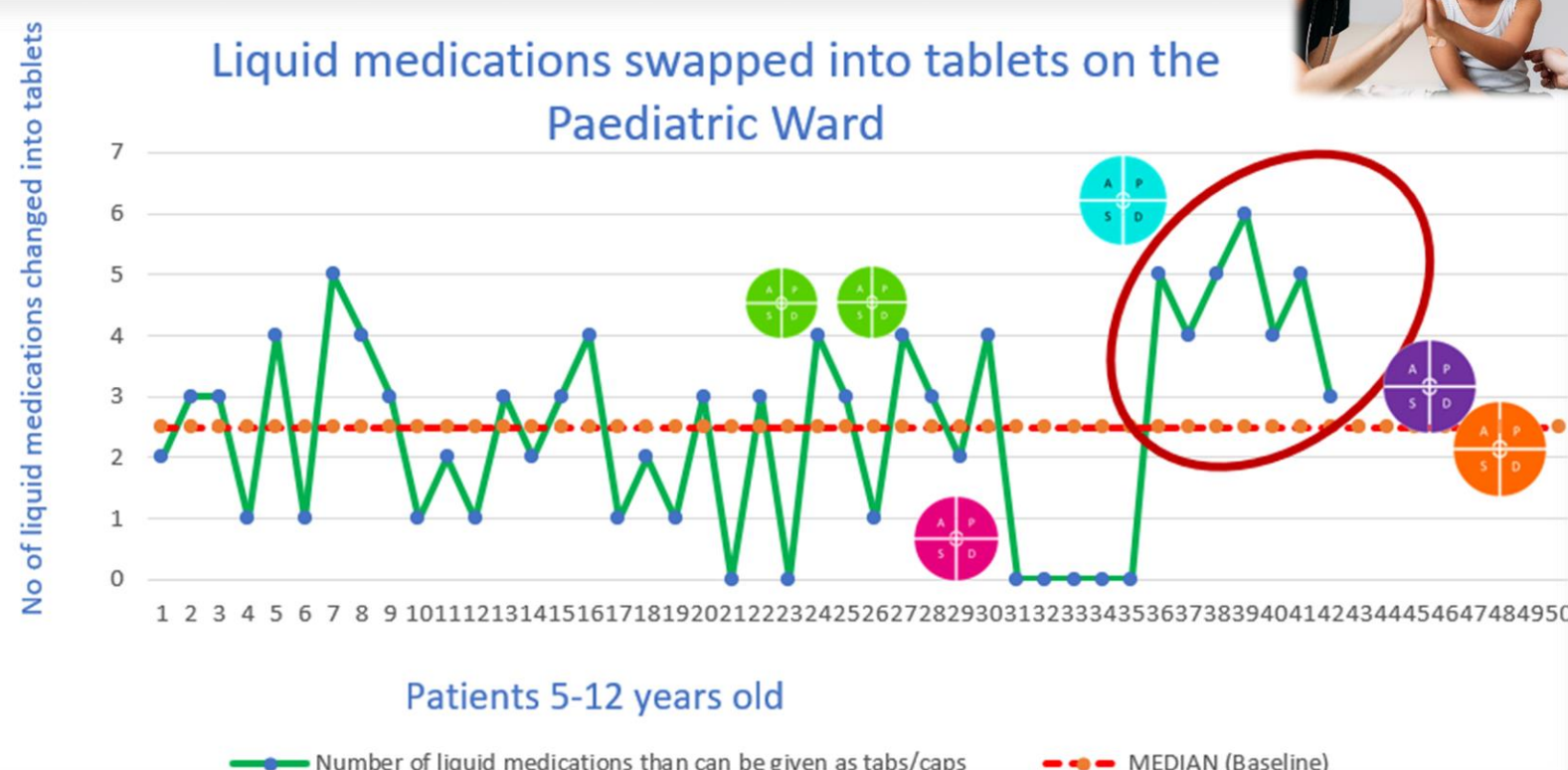


AIM

Increase the number of medicines prescribed as tablets for children 5 -12 yrs out of total medicines prescribed, from 0 out of 10, to 8 out of 10, by the end of August 2024

PDSA Test #	PLAN	Do	STUDY	ACT	PDSA Test #	PLAN	DO	STUDY	ACT
1.1	Make a short video explaining to patients and parents how to take tablets using different sizes of sweets	Found an already existing video from Kidzmed which I used	Technique of swallowing tablets practised with "sample patient" to ensure sleek explanation in real patients	Show the video to eligible patients	2.	Share the project aim with nursing colleagues and get feedback	Email sent to all nursing staff and short teaching session done for them during handover, including discussion with matron	Feedback was not very positive from nursing staff, reluctant to participate in project	Explore reasoning behind nursing reluctance
1.2	Show the video to eligible patients, admitted to the Children Assessment Unit on a specific day	Watch the video together with patient/parents, explain technique and answer questions	I had 8 eligible patients on that shift. From those, 5 agreed to watch the video and try swallowing tablets. All of them were successful and were discharged on oral tablets	Share video with one colleague who is keen to participate in the project	3.1	Organise a tablet clinic in the outpatient department	Discussed with one Consultant, who made a list with eligible patients from all Consultants' clinics. Patients contacted to arrange clinic	Patients that agreed to come to the clinic are those with chronic conditions and multiple medications	Find a free clinic room in the outpatient department to see patients
1.3	Share video with one colleague	Sent email with video link, along with information leaflet to one colleague	Colleague was interested in watching the video. He watched it with me, I explained the technique to him and we practised it together	Find a shift when colleague has the opportunity to share the video with patients (workload and time based)	3.2	See patients in the tablet clinic as outpatients	Patients seen in the tablet clinic, technique of swallowing tablets explained and practised with different sizes of sweets	From the six patients booked in clinic, 5 were successfully switched to tablet medications and one cancelled.	Discuss with Consultant and management to arrange regular tablet clinics
1.4	Colleague to share video with own patients	Colleague shared video with 4 eligible patients and explained the technique to them	Patients were happy to try and 3 out of 4 eligible patients were successful in swallowing the tablet	Find a Registrar from the new cohort of junior doctors to take over and continue the project	4.	Raise awareness with a teaching session to junior doctors and consultants	Prepared and delivered a presentation about QI project after morning handover	Positive feedback received and taken into consideration to plan next steps to continue education on this	Share presentation with a colleague to present to new cohort of junior doctors
					5.	Explore ideas from similar projects in different settings	Email sent to colleague in another hospital undertaking similar project	Ideas and results explored and adjusted to take forward via videocall	Share information with Consultant to adapt and extend the project in the coming months

RUN CHART



CONCLUSION & LEARNING

- Achieved 7/10 children transitioned from liquid to oral tablets for all medicines being taken (target: 8/10); notable success given time constraints
- Marked improvement with personal instruction; statistically significant shift
- Nursing staff reluctant due to resource limitations and staffing shortages
- Undertaking small steps and involving others towards the goals can lead to more sustainable changes

REFLECTIONS

- Model for improvement - provides a great outline and a structured approach to make and sustain a change
- Sustaining quality improvement can be a challenge and involving permanent staff members to help carry it forward is important

