



To prescribe the regular meds

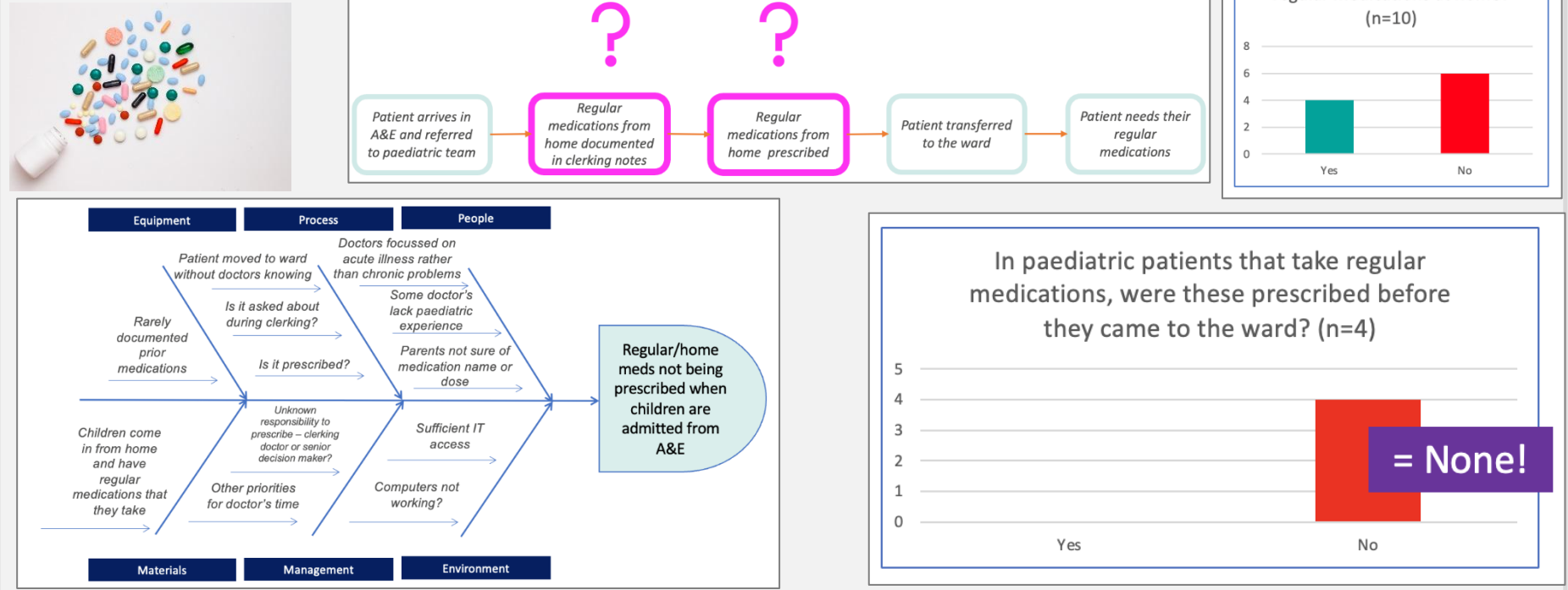
Louise Jones
St George's Hospital

BACKGROUND

Children with complex health needs are often on lots of medications. These are frequently not prescribed before they come from A&E to the ward, which leads to delayed doses and missed medications. This can have serious consequences for patients' health.

PROBLEM
Failing to prescribe the medicines children take at home when they come to the ward fails the child. We risk critical medications being missed and place more workload on stretched ward teams

DIAGNOSTICS



AIM: Increase the number of children who have their regular medications prescribed on admission to the paediatric ward from **ZERO** in November 2024 to at **least HALF** of children by February 2025

MEASURES: Review a sample of patients' notes and measure number who require regular meds, and how many of those that need regular meds had these prescribed before they came to the ward

Inclusions: Patients admitted under the general paediatric team via paediatric ED

Exclusions

- Patients admitted under teams
- Patients not admitted via ED (e.g. from clinic)

Sampling method and frequency: review the notes of all ward patients who are on regular medications once a week

CHANGE IDEAS

Email/WhatsApp to resident doctors reminding them about regular meds

IT solution: pop-up notification or compulsory handover document

More formalised handover checklist from ED to ward

Poster in ED reminding about regular meds

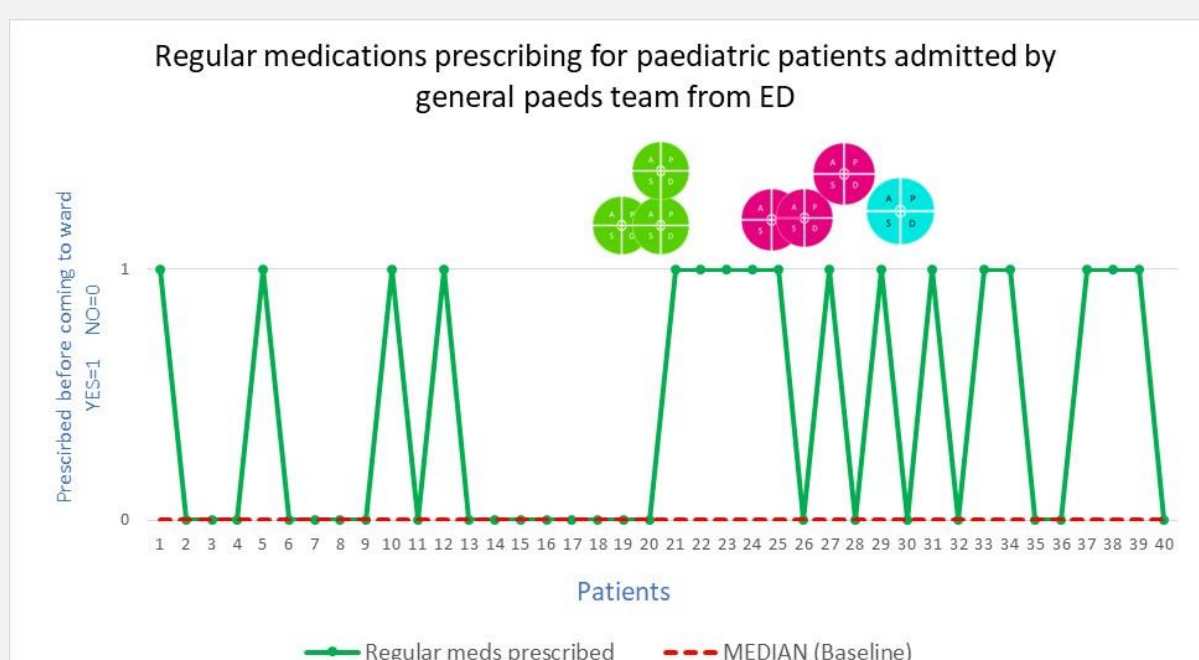
Add section to ward handover sheet for regular meds

PDSA cycles

PDSA Test #	PLAN	Do	STUDY	ACT
1.1	Create a poster for paed ED reminding doctors to prescribe regular meds	09/01 - Shared draft with one other doctor on shift.	Useful feedback to make poster more visually striking	Adapt - added in elephant graphic and increased text size
1.2	Create a poster for paed ED reminding doctors to prescribe regular meds	10/01 - discussed with two doctors and one nurse where poster would be most effective	All agreed poster should be at eyeline at the doctor's desk	Adopt - initial poster will be put here
1.3	Create a poster for paed ED reminding doctors to prescribe regular meds	10/01/2025 - poster put up. I looked back at notes on 17/01/2025 - in this week only 5 children were admitted on regular meds. 100% of these regular meds were prescribed in ED! Huge improvement	My hypothesis is that posters are likely to lose their efficacy over time - people notice them and act on them when they're new, but then they become 'part of the furniture'.	Add in - A more system-based solution will be needed to sustain this positive change

PDSA Test #	PLAN	Do	STUDY	ACT
2.1	Send email to highlight project and aims to colleagues to raise their awareness	30/01 - discussed email with 6 doctors present at lunchtime teaching	All 6 doctors agreed that they would be unlikely to read this email, and would be more likely to read a WhatsApp	Abandon use of email Adapt - Try using WhatsApp
2.2	Send WhatsApp to highlight project and aims to colleagues to raise their awareness	31/01 - reviewed draft WhatsApp with senior doctor colleague on shift	They suggested adding in an emoji 'response' to encourage engagement and use it to check who had seen the poster	Adapt - add in emoji 'response' to encourage engagement with WhatsApp
2.3	Send WhatsApp to highlight project and aims to colleagues to raise their awareness	05/02 - WhatsApp sent out on resident doctor's group, asking for a 'thumbs up' emoji if you had seen the poster, and requesting change ideas	9 'thumbs up' emojis received (around 25 active members on group) and 4 responses with change ideas	Extend - send out weekly WhatsApp updates while project ongoing, feeding back results and highlighting good practice
3.1	Add 'regular meds prescribed?' as a section on handover sheet	Discussed with one senior colleague	They highlighted difficulties about where this would be placed and whether it would make the handover sheet too 'busy'	Again - discuss at handover to get more people's opinions on this change
3.2	Add 'regular meds prescribed?' as a section on handover sheet	Discussion at handover with group of 10 resident doctors	Discussion at handover with group - resistance to changing handover sheet. More keen on idea of formalising handover from ED to ward with structured handover document	Add-in new idea of formalised handover document (including reg meds) to test. Handed this over to colleague who is taking over this project

RUN CHART



CONCLUSION & LEARNING

- I achieved my aim: 9/15 children had their regular medications prescribed in February 2025 versus NONE in November 2024. There is still a lot of room for improvement.
- I saw a huge initial improvement in the week after I put the poster up (PDSA cycle 1): all the children that week had their regular medications prescribed.
- However, without systemic change, this improvement could not be sustained.

REFLECTIONS

- Small changes can lead to overall improvement - I did not think I had made a change and met my aim until I counted the numbers for February at the end.
- I hypothesise that a system-based change (new hand over process or adding regular medications to the handover sheet) is needed to make sustainable change. I encountered resistance to making this change in the time frame but have 'handed over' this project to continue.

