

Improving the availability of procedural equipment on acute medical wards

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Background:

- Three new acute medical wards have recently been created at Barnet Hospital – medical short stay unit (MSSU), adult assessment unit (AAU) and clinical decision unit (CDU)
- These wards receive a high turnover of acute medical admissions often requiring diagnostic and therapeutic procedures
- Procedural equipment is often missing or difficult to find resulting in time-consuming searches across the hospital

Project Aims:

- Targeted clinical procedures:
 - Lumbar Puncture
 - Pleural Aspiration
 - Chest Drain
 - Ascitic Tap
 - Abdominal Paracentesis
- Targeted ward = MSSU
- To ensure that 100% of essential procedural equipment is stocked within 3 months
- To ensure that 100% of essential procedural equipment can be found within 10 minutes of searching

Implementing Change

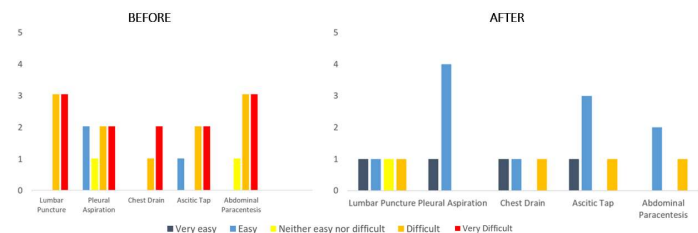
Clinical Procedures Trolley



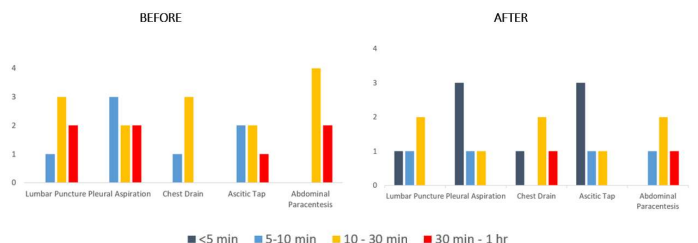
Tracking Change

- Survey doctors on MSSU before and after change to establish:
 - How easy is it to find equipment?
 - How long does it take to find equipment?
 - How many wards do you visit to find equipment?
- Spot checks of procedural equipment on MSSU

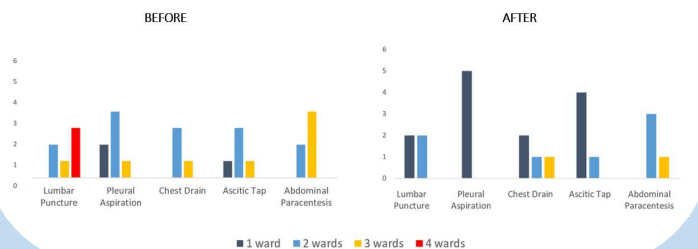
How easy is it to find equipment?



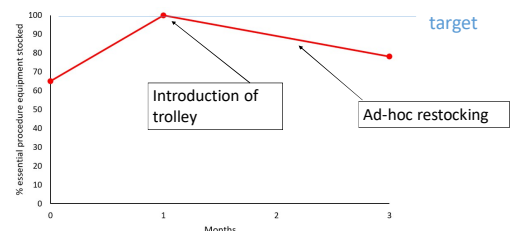
How long does it take to find equipment?



How many wards do you visit to find equipment?



Run Chart of Equipment Spot Checks



Learning Points

- Lack of doctors' awareness of trolley limited success (43% of surveyed doctors were not aware of trolley or were unable to find or access it)
- Ad-hoc restocking of trolley by doctors was inadequate

Future works

- Improve doctors' awareness of trolley, particularly at rotation changeover dates
- Routine restocking of trolley by appropriate personnel
- Roll out trolleys to CDU and AAU