

Establish a standardised referral pathway to reduce waiting times for first seizure patients seen via GP and A&E.

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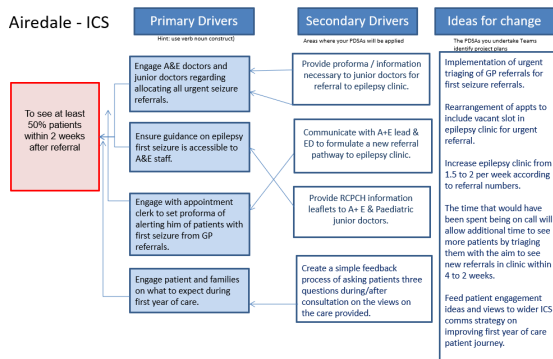
Aim/purpose:

To see at least 50% patients within 2 weeks after referral.

What is the problem:

Nice guidelines on Epilepsy published first in 2004 and it is recommended that all children who have had a first non-febrile seizure should be seen as soon as possible (within 2 weeks) by a specialist in the management of epilepsy. Although it was not always possible. We have established special epilepsy clinic in 2005, waiting time was 10-12 weeks average.

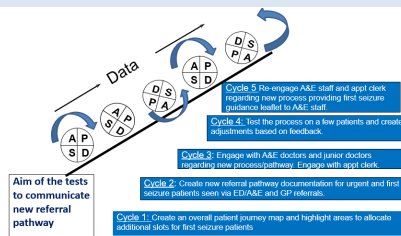
Driver Diagram



Process map



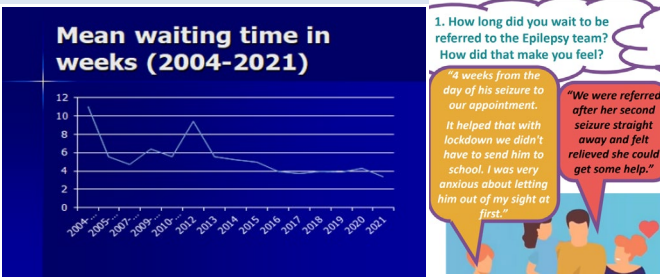
PDSA cycles



What our tests revealed

- Total patient referred to Epilepsy clinic: 40 (GP, A+E, Hospital admissions)
- From October 2021 to February 2022
- Diagnosed with Epilepsy 5/40 (12.5%)
- Waiting time range: 1-8 weeks. Mean 3.3 weeks
- Waiting time after new measures: 3.3 weeks.
- Waiting time last year 2020: 4.3 weeks
- Waiting time for Epilepsy patients: 1-2 weeks
- Waiting time for non-Epilepsy patients mean: 3.4 weeks (37 % seen within 2 weeks)
- Over all seen within 2 weeks of referral (Epilepsy+ Non-Epilepsy): 46.34%**

Data/Results/Patient engagement



Successes/challenges

- Seeing patients by 2 weeks from first referral.
- Better relationship/engagement with ED staff
- Able to engage with patients and families on their views on how to maintain good service
- Lack of ESN support due to sickness
- Reducing variation for first seizure referral waiting times from 8 to 2 weeks.

Team personal learning/Team highlights

- Collaboration and engagement with other departments (A+E, appointment clerks) has positive impact.
- Clear referral guidance & efficient triaging system helped to reduce waiting time.
- Providing RCPCH leaflets after first seizure helped families.

Next steps

- We like to continue our efforts to keep waiting time down as practical as possible.
- We are planning to screen mental health problems in children with Epilepsy by providing Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)