

ADHD Diagnostic Pathway

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Quality issue / initial problem

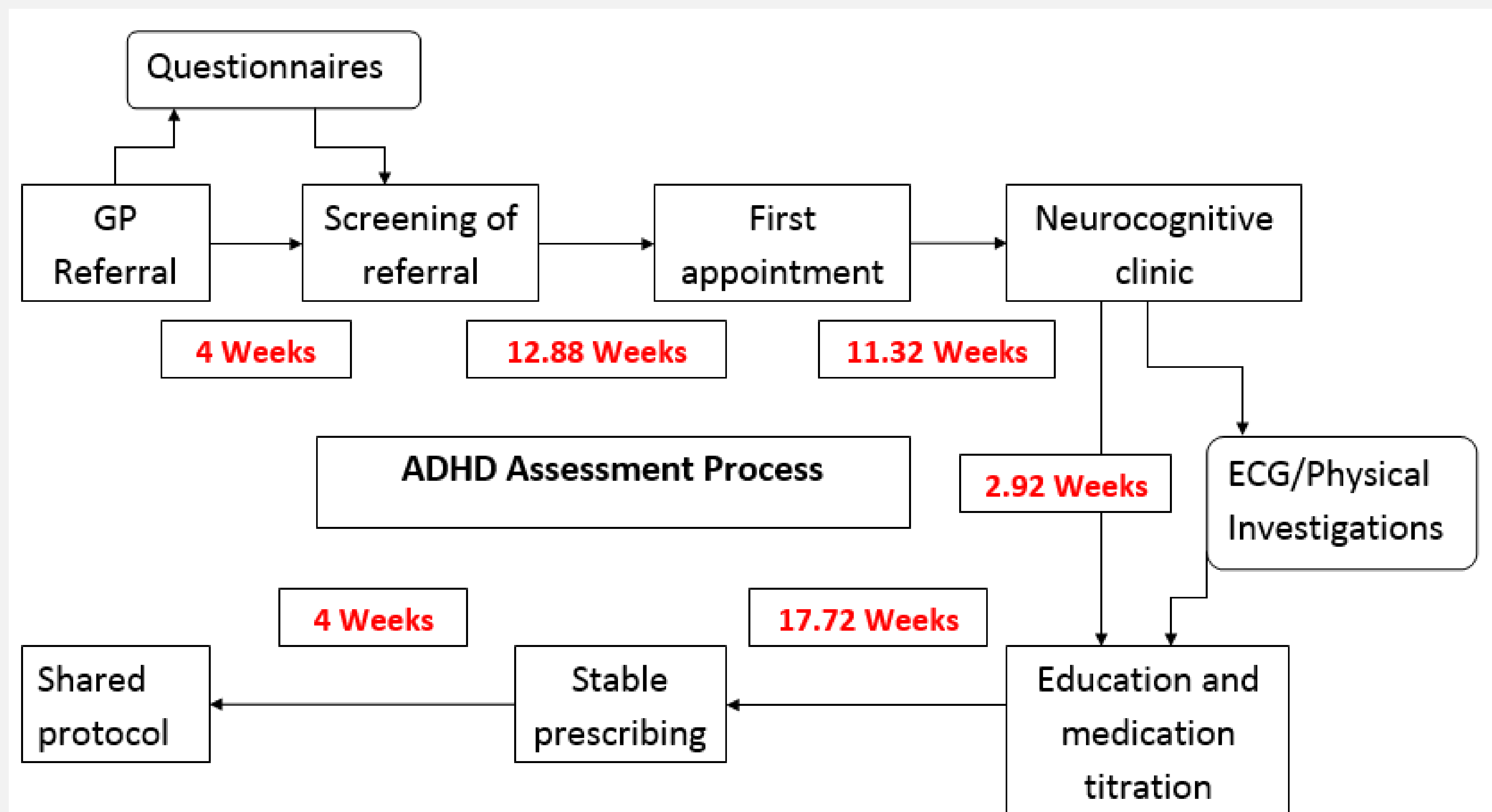
The south west Edinburgh community mental health team has seen a significant increase in ADHD referrals – accounting for 20-25% of all new referrals. There is a lengthy period from initial referral to treatment (53 weeks) and a high ‘DNA’ rate (19.8% of offered medical appointments). It is recognised that this is financially costly and impacts on patient experience.

Specific aim

Streamline diagnostic assessment pathway, reducing time from initial assessment to stabilisation on treatment – improving patient satisfaction and reducing costs through minimising “wasted” appointments. This would increase service capacity.

Measurement of improvement

- Measure time from initial referral to diagnosis and establishing treatment.
- Calculate DNA and drop-out rate.
- Measure administration time (e.g. time taken to process referrals as per new process).



Tests of change

Steps to reduce time from diagnosis to treatment:

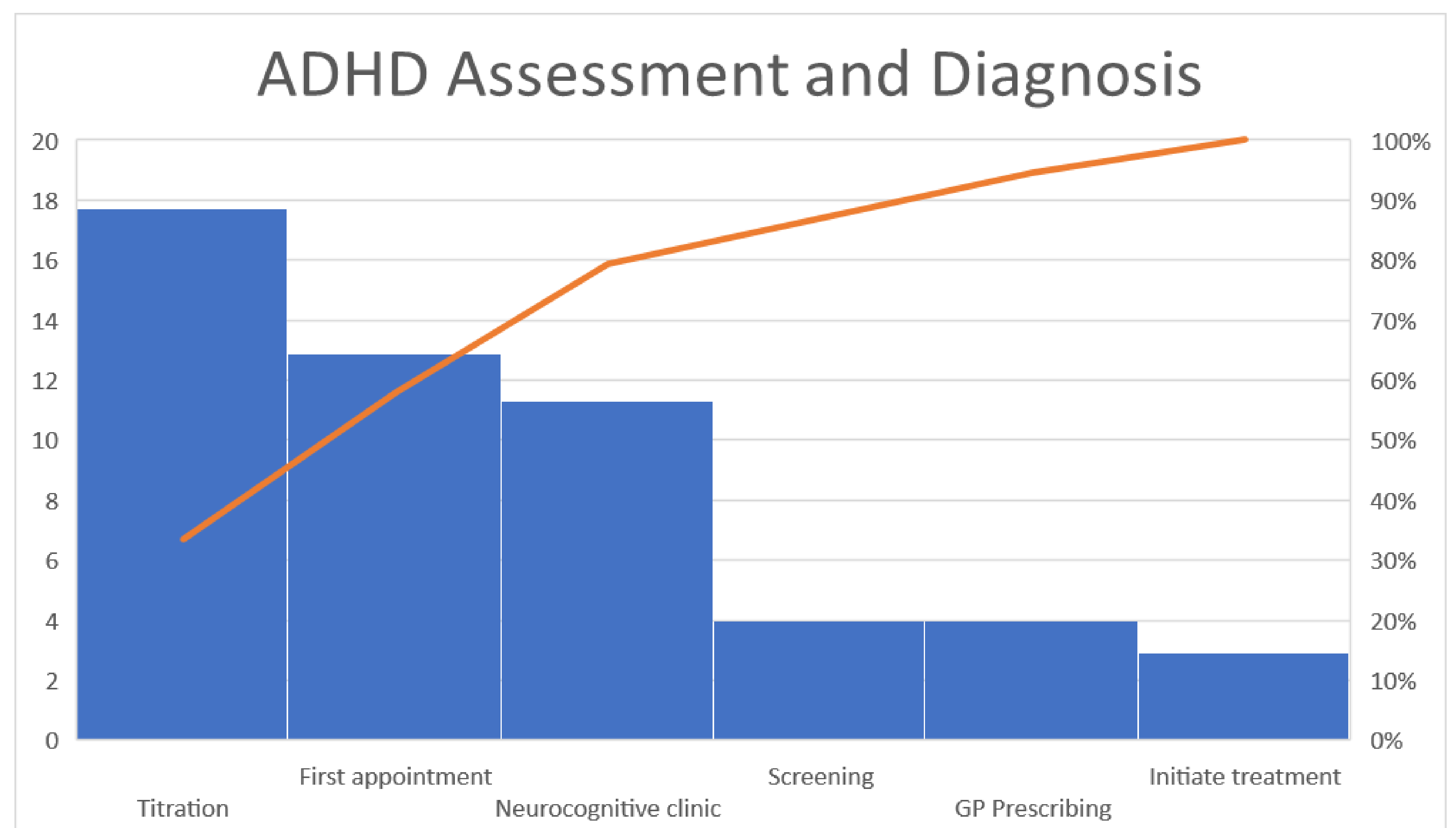
- Create separate clinic specifically for diagnosis and assessment.

Steps to reduce DNA rate:

- Improve information letter.
- Opt-in system/Patient focused booking.

Steps to increase capacity

- Nurse prescriber



Effects of change

- Reduce time from initial assessment to diagnosis.
- Reduction in DNA rate, increasing clinic capacity and patient satisfaction.

Lessons learned and message for others

- Collaboration with entire team important to gain “buy in”.
- Trak takes time to implement change!
- Gathering baseline data – unexpected findings.