

ACCESSIBILITY OF CONSENT TO TREATMENT FORMS FOR DETAINED PATIENTS

Dr Norman Nuttall

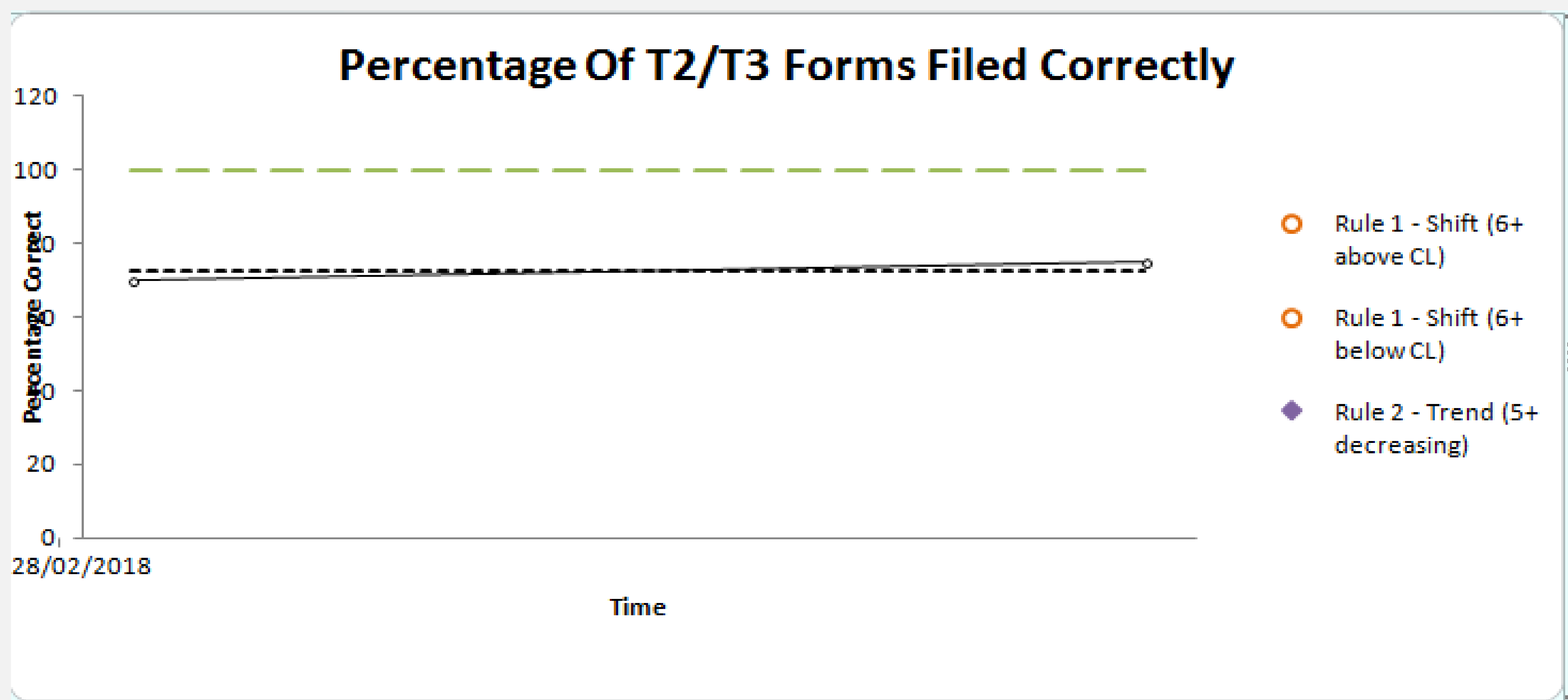
Quality issue / initial problem

It is a legal requirement for patients who have been detained under the mental health act for more than 2 months that their consent to treatment is formalised, either by the patient understanding and giving written consent to their treatment, or by an independent second opinion being sought via the Mental Welfare Commission. This process provides a safeguard for patients regarding their requirement to continue to take medication and other forms of treatment. A recent visit to the Acute General Adult Psychiatry wards at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital found that in some wards the T2 and T3 forms were not being kept with the patient's drug prescribing sheet, and that as a result, some patients had been prescribed medication which was not authorised.

Specific aim

To achieve 100% compliance, in other words, to ensure that every patient who is subject to consent to treatment legislation has the correct documentation with their drug recording sheet by September 2018.

Measurement of improvement



Tests of change

- Produce letter for T2/3 forms sent to ward
- Add consent to treatment to ward duty white boards
- Planning session with charge nurses/clerkesses

Effects of change

Every detained patient will have the correct documentation available with their prescribing sheet in order that all medication is prescribed legally.

Lessons learned and message for others

An apparently simple process is revealed to be fairly complicated! Procedures implemented across a range of different teams require robust, straightforward, built in steps.

Tools

