

Spirometry Diagnostic Hubs



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Background

- Spirometry is the gold standard for diagnosis.
- 90% of COPD and Asthma patients are diagnosed within their GP practice.
- Spirometry across primary and community care was severely disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Spirometry Diagnostic Hub Project

- Two diagnostic hubs were introduced in the North and South of Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB).
- Undertaking spirometry and fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FENO) testing, interpretation, confirming diagnosis and where necessary determining appropriate treatment and management pathways.
- **Aim:** Tackle the backlog of patients awaiting diagnostic spirometry testing within Primary and Community care Services in ABUHB.

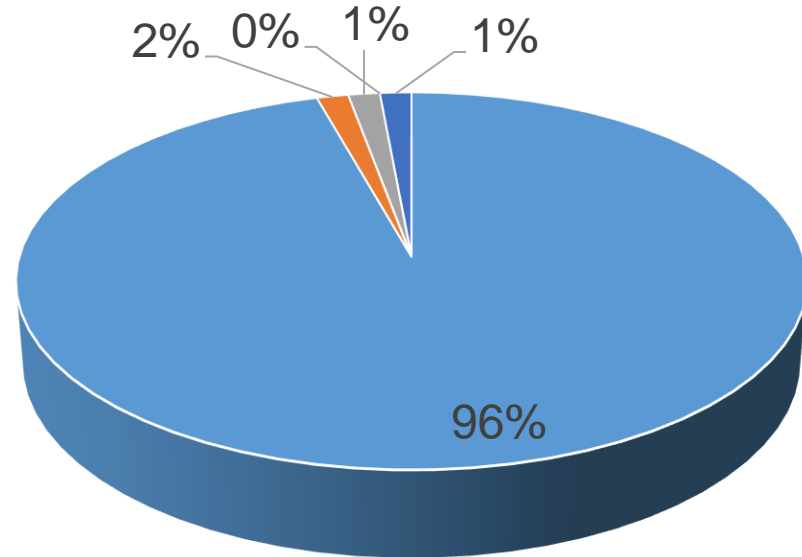
Spirometry Diagnostic Hub Project

- **Objectives:**

- Reduce the waiting list of patients awaiting diagnostic spirometry tests and delayed diagnosis/diagnostic uncertainty.
- Improve treatment outcomes for patients presenting with respiratory diseases, ensuring prudent prescribing/appropriate medicines management.
- Reduce A&E attendance, OOH, GP, and secondary care service contacts.
- Provide provision of services and care closer to home in line with “A Healthier Wales”.
- Ensure Primary and community health care professionals are appropriately trained and certified by maintaining the skills, competence/re-accreditation for spirometry, maintaining an active workforce.

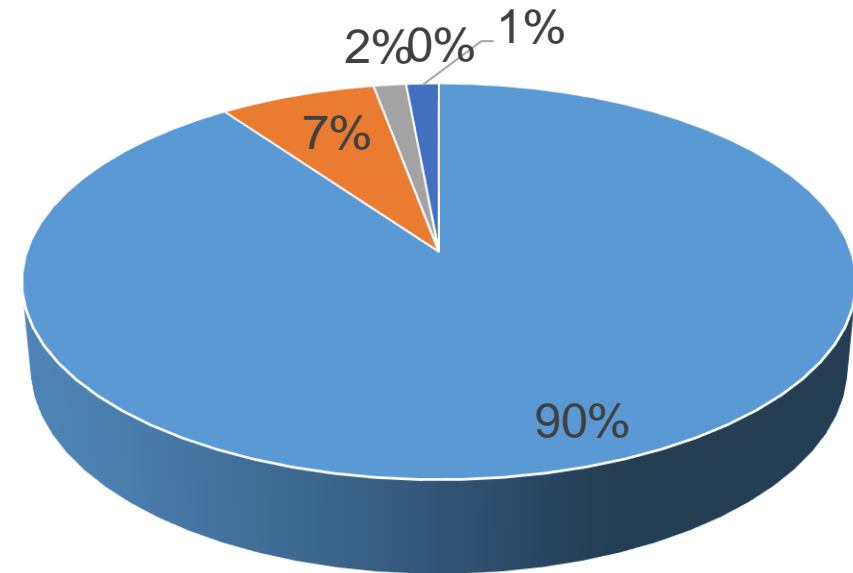
Outcomes: Patient Satisfaction

The quality of care/support you received



- Very Happy
- Good
- Very Unhappy
- Happy
- Unhappy

The degree to which you were involved in decision making



- Very Happy
- Good
- Very Unhappy
- Happy
- Unhappy

Outcomes

- Improved capacity within secondary care and general practices, improving diagnosis, management, and treatment outcomes.
 - 347 risk stratified patients were reviewed of which 136 patients had a change in referral diagnosis.
 - 31 of these patients had an admission to hospital and 7 had admission to ITU in past 12 months.
 - 104 patients had 2 more previous exacerbations in past 12 months.
 - 52 patient reduction in respiratory directorate waiting list.

Conclusion and next steps

- Spirometry hubs are crucial to enabling patients to receive a holistic respiratory assessment with accurate diagnosis and ongoing treatment management, and to tackle the waiting lists to improve access to services.
- Spirometry hubs provide an innovative new model of service delivery and easy access for patients to specialist advice, whilst empowering them to look after their own health and well being in their communities.
- **Next steps:** the delivery of this project has identified the necessity for additional diagnostic hubs across the health board which are symptom led i.e. breathlessness, in line with the “National Clinical Pathways” ambition of Welsh Government.

Reflections

- Workforce.
- IT infrastructure.
- Funding.
- Working in the pandemic.
- Education and support of wider staff/training.
- Engagement with health board senior leadership team and future planning.



Spirometry Diagnostic Hub Team



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