

The history and examination of conjunctivitis diagnoses in primary care: A Quality Improvement Project



A.Abdall-Razak¹, G. Sehmbi¹, M. Ni'man²
1. Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust 2. South Coast Medical Group

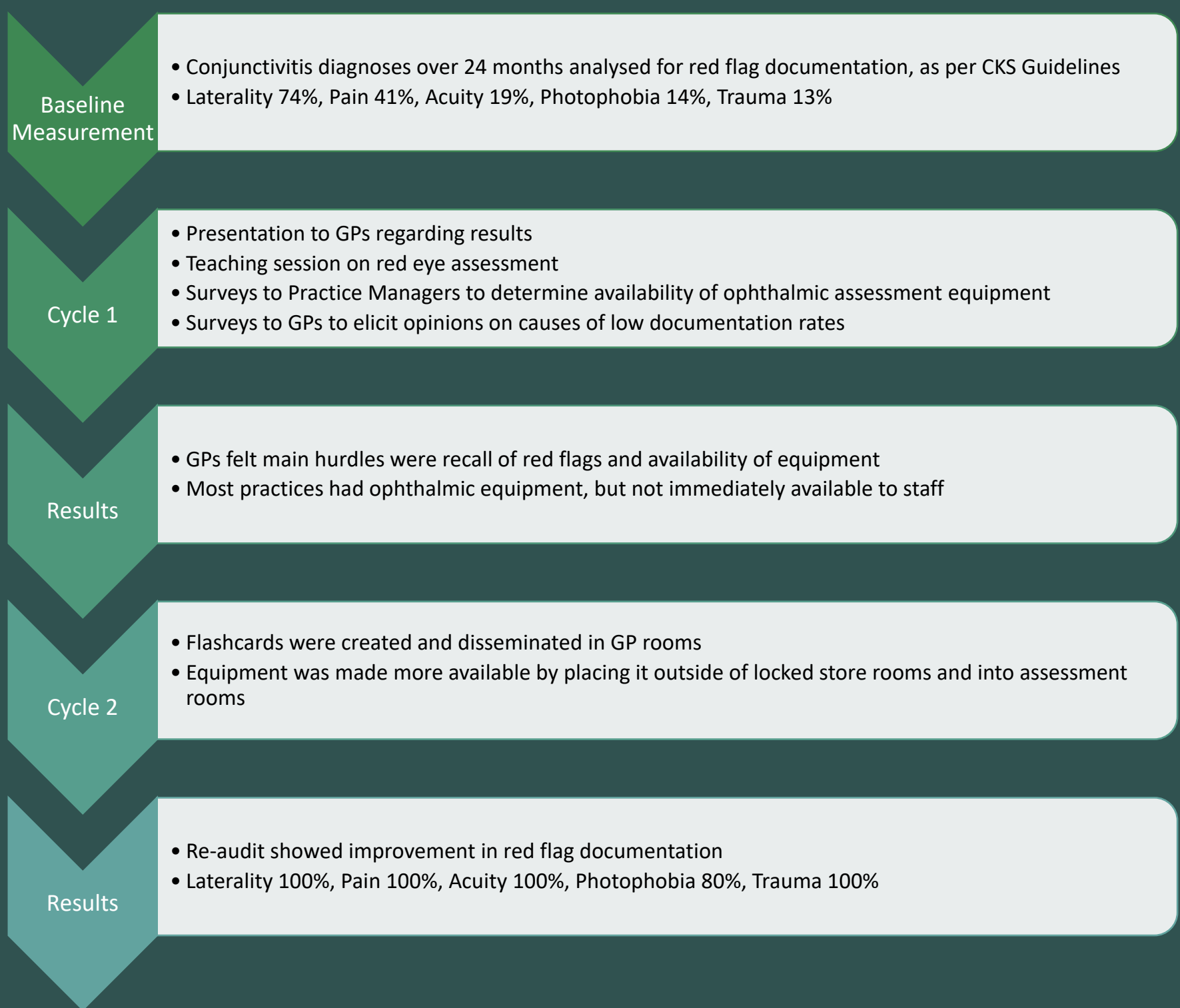


Background

Within primary care ophthalmology, conjunctivitis accounts for over half of all eye disease consultations made by GPs.^{1, 2} Red-eye, a common symptom of conjunctivitis,³ also makes up a large proportion of the referrals to secondary care.⁴ With conjunctivitis and red-eye being such a large proportion of the ocular disease seen in general practice, it makes itself an important target in quality improvement and increasing efficiency in the management of ocular disease in primary care.

Aims

- Evaluate the documentation of conjunctivitis diagnoses against guidelines
- To improve the documentation of red flags in conjunctivitis consultations across the 7 GP practices in Wessex, in which each red flag must be documented 100% of the time. This should be achieved within two months



Conclusions

This project showed drastic improvements in the documentation of conjunctivitis assessments in primary care. Overall, this has contributed to the safety of the patient population and has shown our interventions to be effective. We hope this QIP can be reproduced in other primary care centres and welcome any further comments/suggestions.

We would like to thank the staff at the SCMG for their cooperation with us throughout the project.

Contributions

Design and Leadership – AAR; Data collection – AAR; Data Analysis – AAR, GS; Write up – AAR, GS; Supervision MN

References

1. Shields T., Sloane P.D. A comparison of eye problems in primary care and ophthalmology practices. *Fam Med.* 1991;23:544–546.
2. McDonnell P. How do general practitioners manage eye disease in the community?. *British Journal of Ophthalmology.* 1988;72(10):733-736.
3. Conjunctivitis [Internet]. nhs.uk. 2019 [cited 14 September 2019]. Available from: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/conjunctivitis/>
4. Pierscionek T, Moore J, Pierscionek B. Referrals to ophthalmology: optometric and general practice comparison. *Ophthalmic and Physiological Optics.* 2009;29(1):32-40.