

Every Patient who could have OPAT, should have OPAT - the importance of data

Authors: Katie Holgate¹, Steph Williams¹, Hannah Bolton¹, Rachel Nye¹, Millie Watson¹, Alli Wood¹, Ann Cole²

1. York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust 2. Baxter Healthcare Limited, Compton, UK

Background

OPAT (Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy) has a clear role to play in optimising anti-microbial stewardship, and is listed as one of the Department of Health five options for antimicrobial prescribing decision options to focus therapy.¹

York and Scarborough Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (YST) OPAT service has been operational since January 2019, treating over 438 patients and demonstrating year on year growth.

Growth has been progressive, however an OPAT department vision established in 2021 stretched this to seek that "Every patient who could have OPAT, should have OPAT." (Figure 1) An ambitious target but not impossible with a robust evaluation of the service, and a structured approach to scale.

Objective

An in-depth assessment to understand the current OPAT service and to identify pathways for further expansion together with potential efficiency and productivity gains.

Method

Working in partnership with Baxter Healthcare Limited a three-month diagnostic process was undertaken with the YST multi-disciplinary team, using a range of service and quality improvement tools to inform an in-depth assessment.

A clear picture of the OPAT current state was developed through:
Outcomes analysis • Insights: Pathway Mapping and System Flow • Insights: Patient Experience • Insights: Point of Use

Results

The assessment of OPAT services provided a clear demonstration of how the service has grown from 8.4 patients per month in 2019, 20.8 in 2020, 27.4 in 2021 (Figure 2), saving over 10,500 bed days in line with the department vision and anti-microbial stewardship team goals. Achieving the initial key performance indicators set for reducing inpatient stays, reduction in the number of super stranded patients and percentage of patients on the self-care pathway. (Figures 3-5).

The local OPAT trustwide database developed in line with recommendation 5.1 of the OPAT Good Practice recommendations² enabled service evaluation of multiple metrics that demonstrated clear service expansion opportunities and growth. From January 2019 to April 2020, 44% of total patients were trauma and orthopaedic, and surgical patients totalled 71% patients across all sites. The evaluation enabled expanded capacity to now include provision for patients with Endocarditis, Necrotising Otitis Externa, Diabetic Foot infections, Bronchiectasis and Intra-abdominal infections.

The service has significant peaks and troughs, impacted by a number of factors impacting capacity and flow including resource, points of referral and the ability to identify patients.

The OPAT Good Practice Recommendation (GPR) Assessment Tool³ was utilized to review overall compliance with the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy OPAT GPRs and to plan further improvement initiatives.

Patient Experience: 93% reported OPAT allowed them to get on with everyday activities and normal home routine.

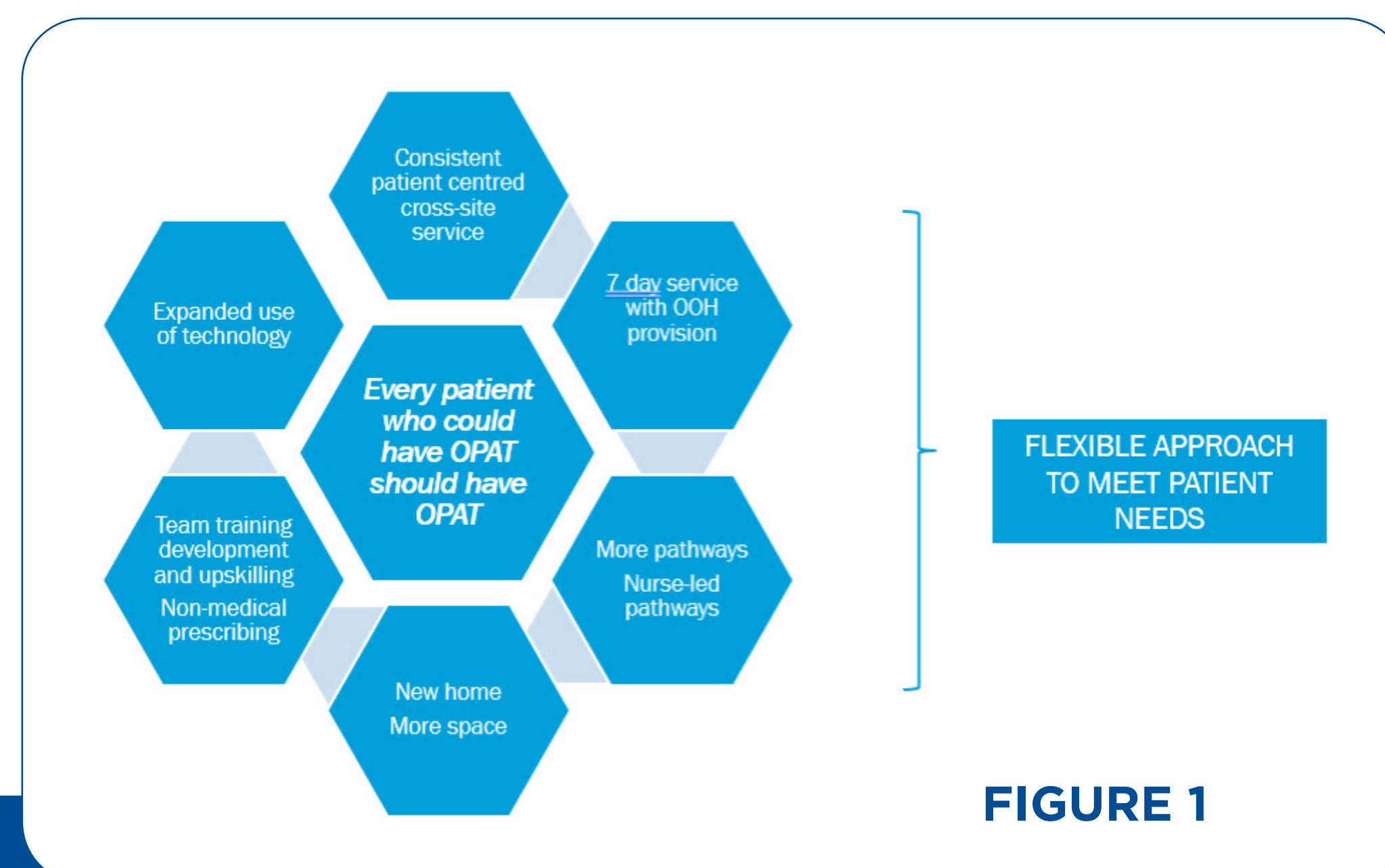


FIGURE 1

Figure 2: OPAT Patient Number – Trustwide

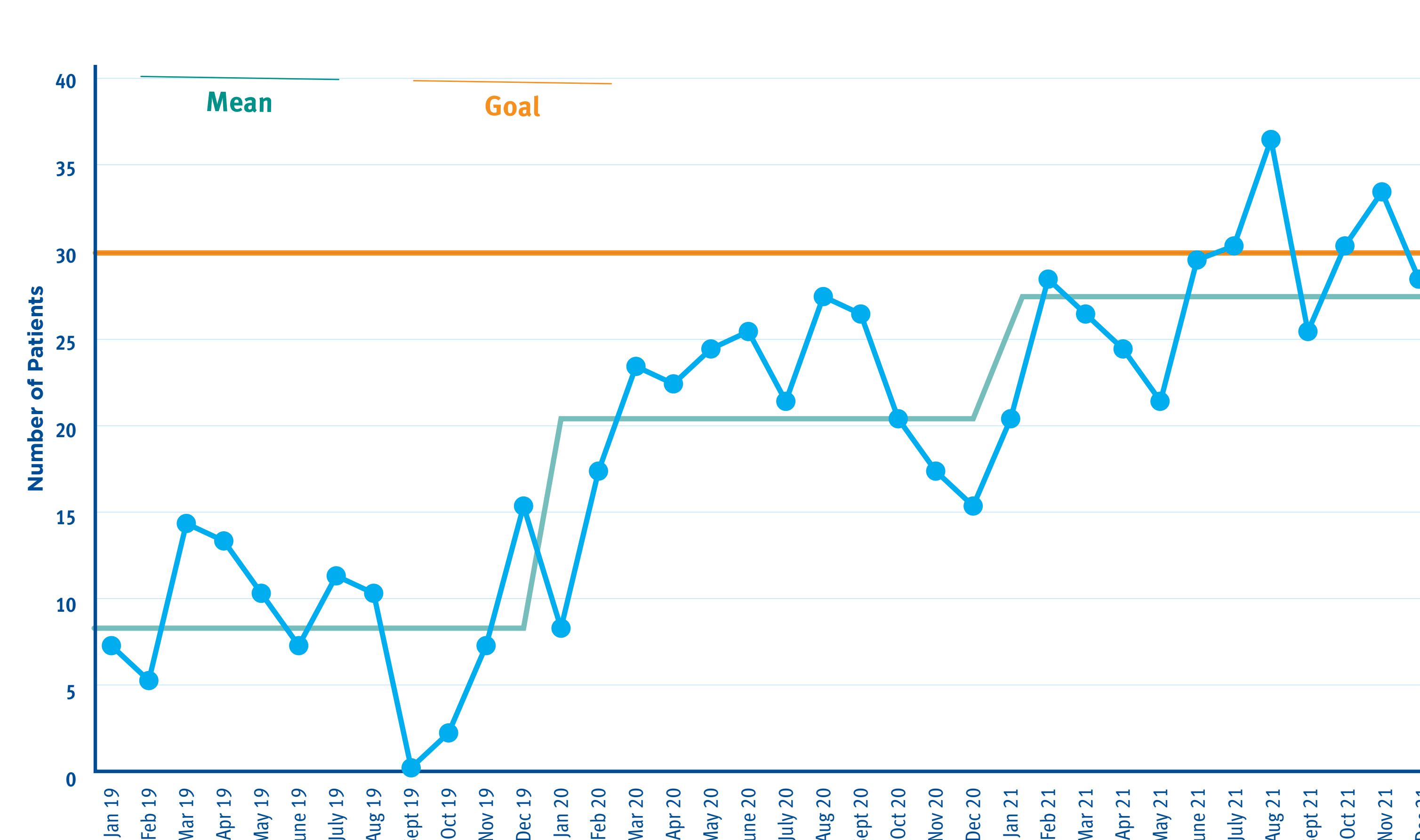


Figure 3: Reduced Inpatient Stays – Trustwide

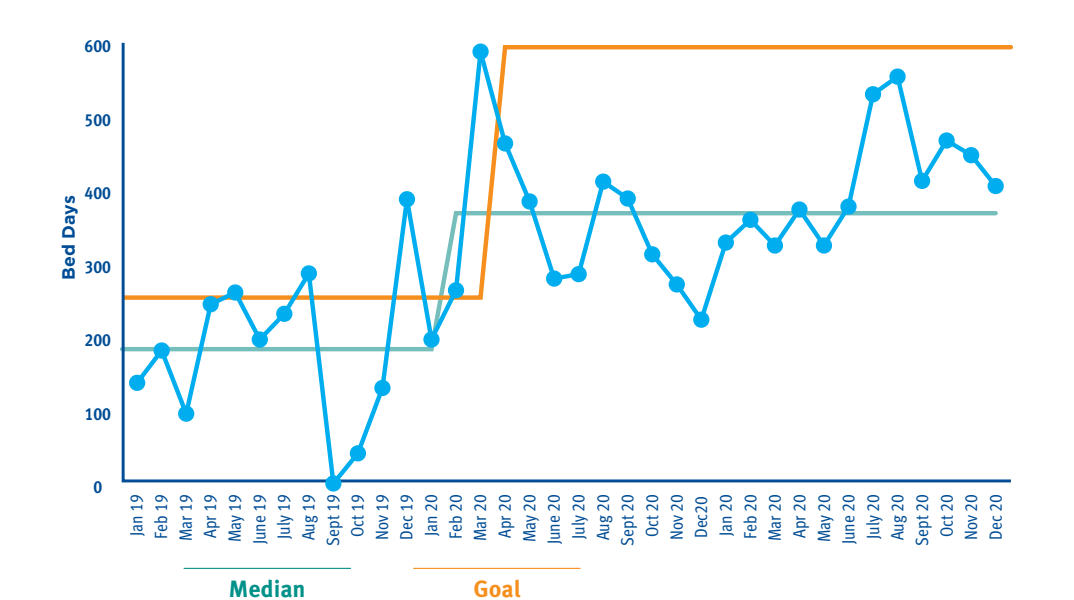


Figure 4: Super Stranded (on OPAT >21 days) – Trustwide

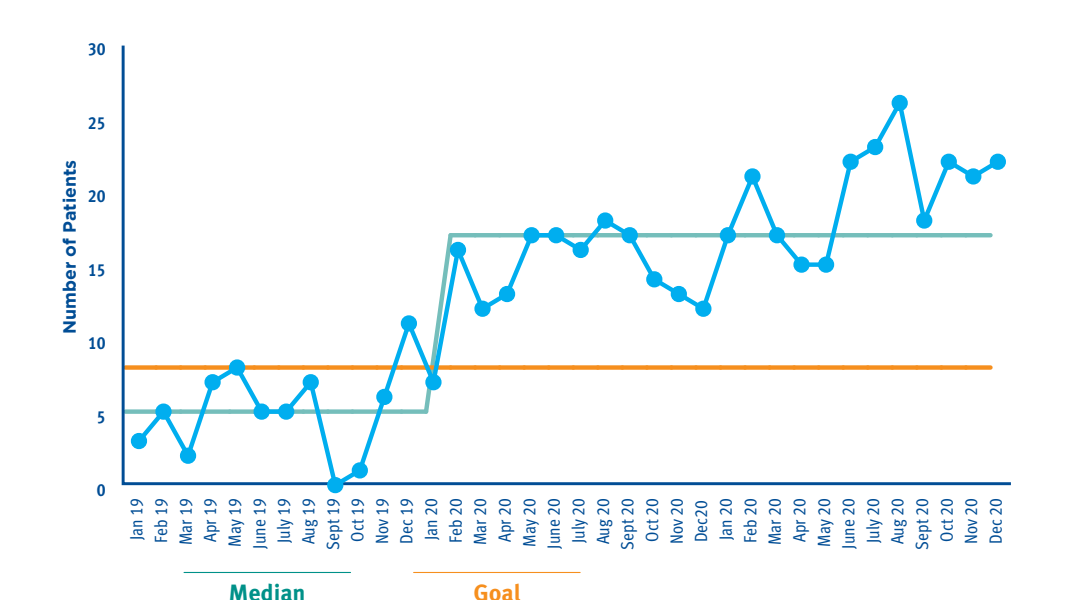
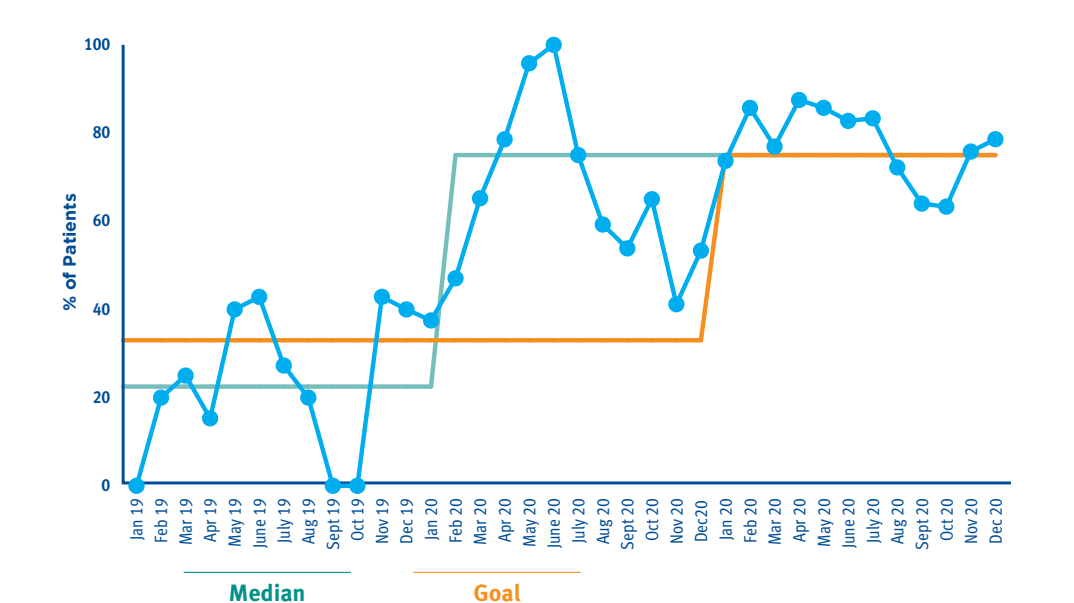


Figure 5: Percentage Patients on self-care pathway – Trustwide



Conclusion

Moving forward the focus is on predictability for sustainable growth creating a more consistent service, with multiple care pathways optimized to meet individual patient needs across North Yorkshire. The Baxter partnership has offered the Trust an opportunity to understand the service potential and meet their ambitious vision. Ultimately the goal is for 75% of patients in the OPAT service to be on a self-care pathway, thus releasing time to care.