



Gloucestershire Safety and Quality Improvement Academy 2026

Clinical Frailty Score QI project

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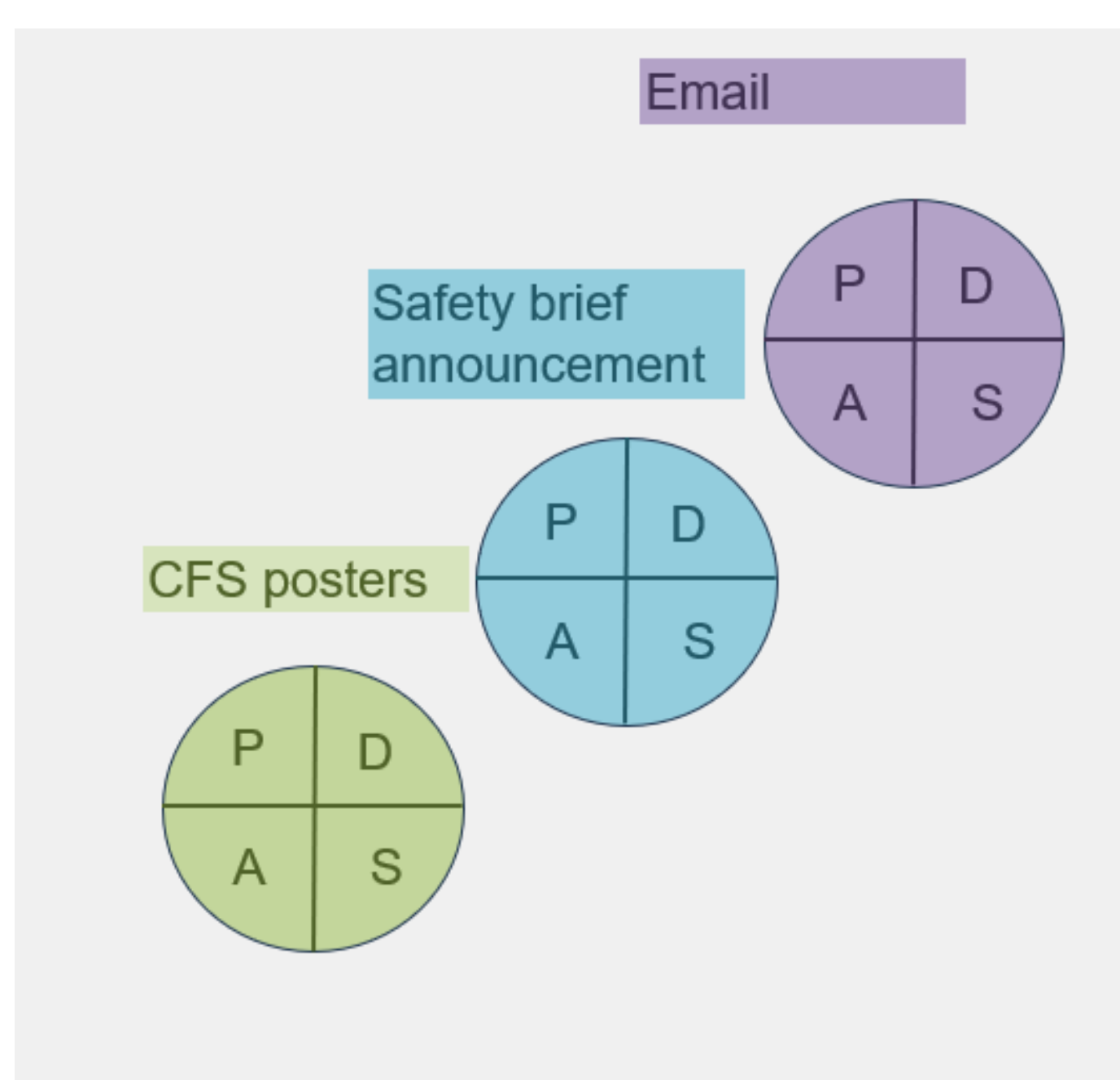


Gloucestershire Hospitals
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Background: the CFS is a simple way of quantifying a patient's function and frailty. Recording CFS on admission to the DCC can impact patient outcomes, resource allocations and clinical decision making (1).

The CFS is a valid and reproducible marker for early risk stratification in critically ill patients (1,2). An assessment of frailty helps prompt treatment escalation discussions and can lead to earlier decisions on appropriate therapies (1,3.) I witnessed patients on the DCC unit who had not had a CFS documented who went on to have interventions which, had they had a proper CFS assessment, may not have been felt appropriate. The ICNARC database requires that critical care units record the CFS of patients. Not documenting the CFS can lead to incorrectly coded/not coded patients and cause the trust loses income. I noted our documentation of CFS on the unit was very poor.

PDSA cycles:



Measures:

Outcome: no. of CFSs correctly documented

Process:

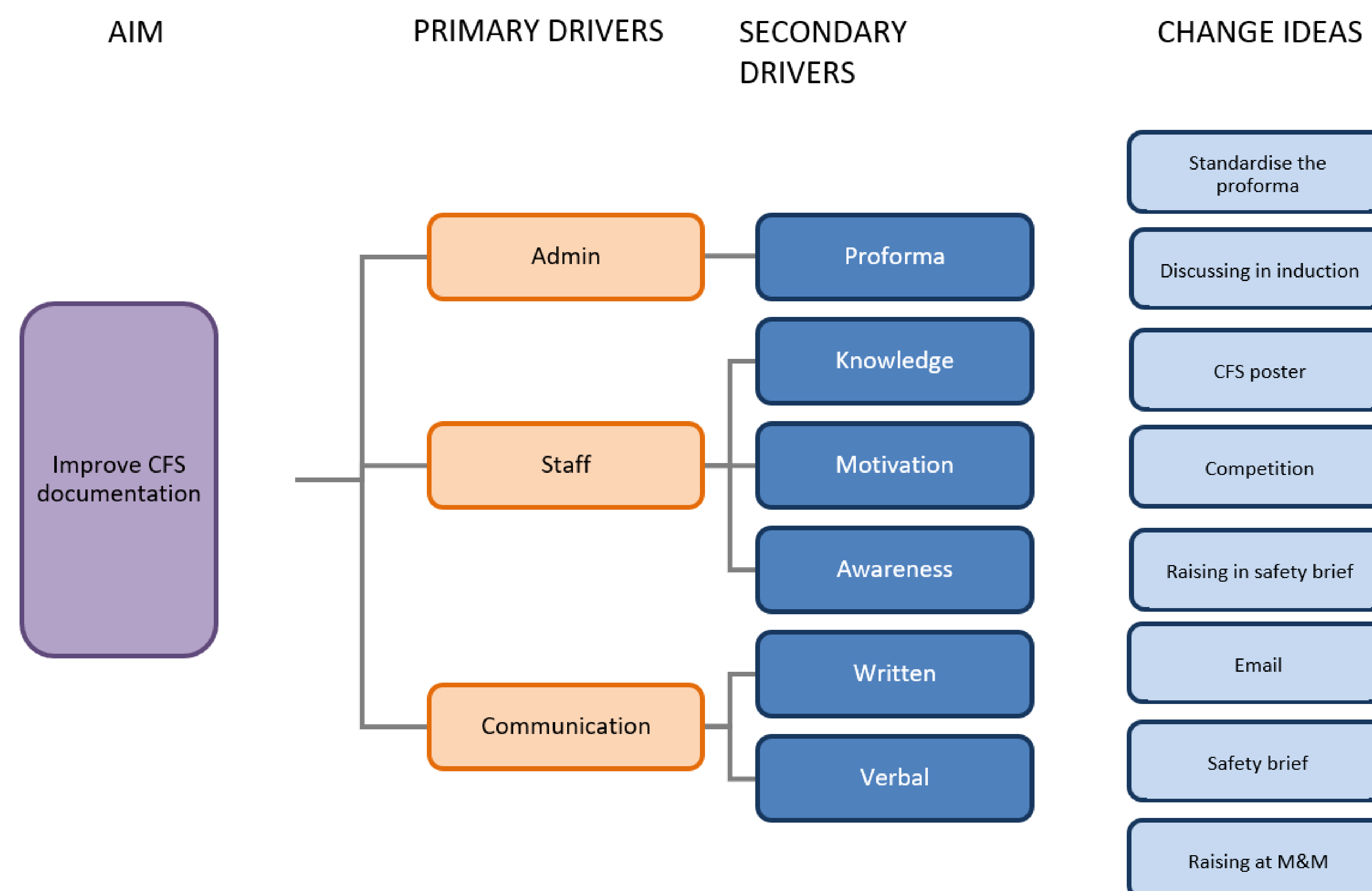
- documentation of a social history
- inclusion of social history in the admission acronym expansion
- are staff aware of what a CFS is, and how to measure it?

Balancing: are they being correctly documented?

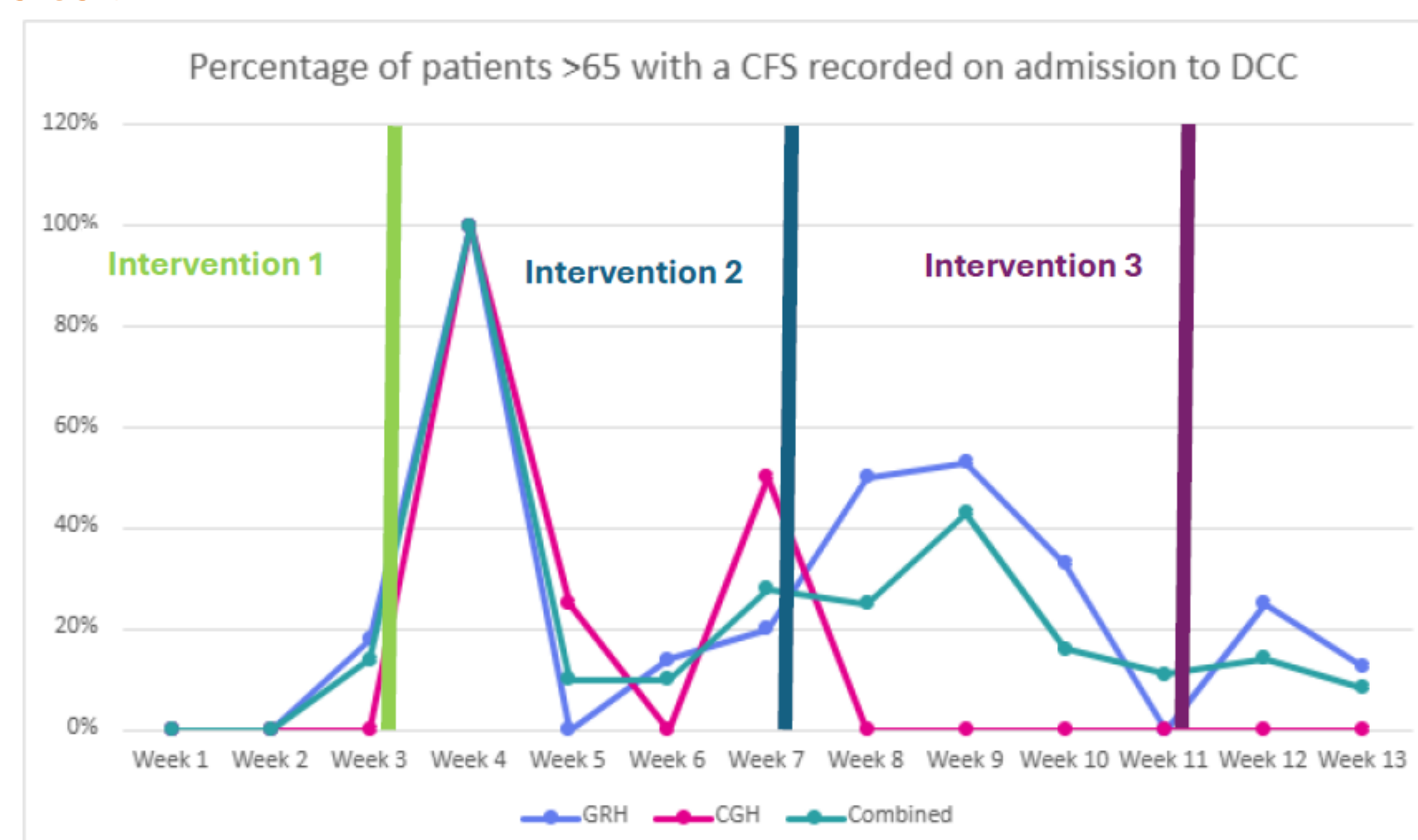
Aim:

To increase the documentation of Clinical Frailty Scores, for patients >65 years of age, on admission to DCC trust-wide, by 50%, over a 6-month period.

Driver Diagram:



The data:



Next steps:

- Back to basics, start on one site then expand if able
- Next cycle: targeting induction when doctors rotate through in Feb
- Another cycle: editing the acronym expansion for DCC admissions to include CFS
- If good response in GRH, then target CGH!

References

- 1) Literature Search: What are the benefits of recording Clinical Frailty scores on admission to ICU? 7th May 2025. Claire O'Connor, Library & Knowledge Services, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
- 2) Bruno, R.R. et al. (2023) 'The Clinical Frailty Scale for mortality prediction of old acutely admitted intensive care patients: a meta-analysis of individual patient-level data', Annals of Intensive Care, 13(1), pp. 1–13.
- 3) Lonsdale, D.O. et al. (2023) 'The clinical frailty scale – does it predict outcome of the very-old in UK ICUs?', Journal of the Intensive Care Society, 24(2), pp. 154–161. doi:10.1177/17511437211050789.