

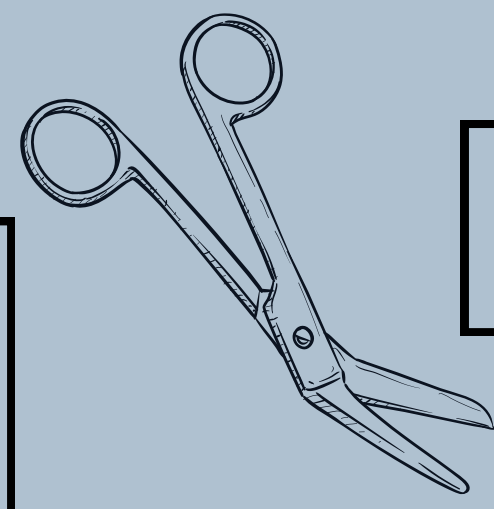
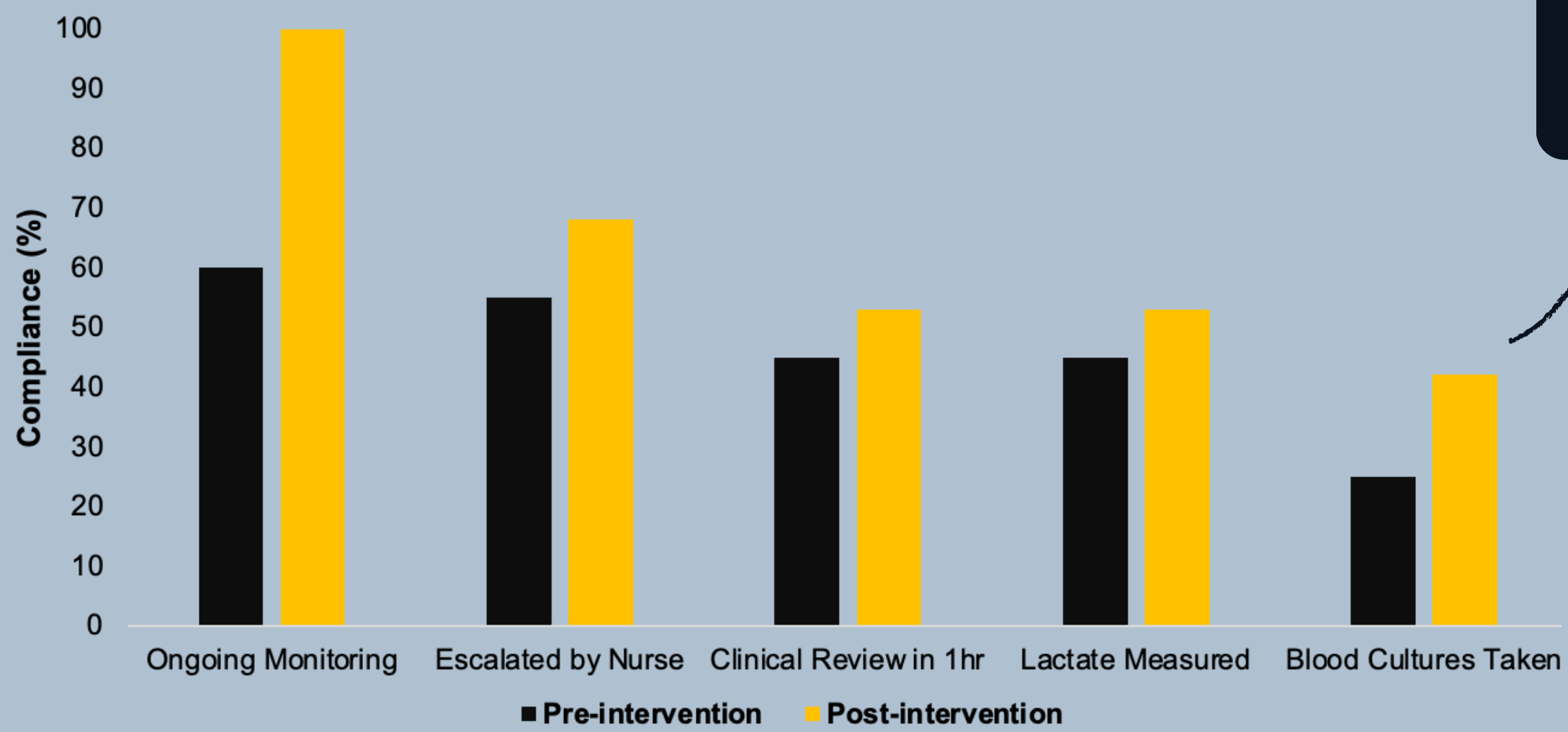
BACKGROUND AND AUDIT STANDARDS

- **National Early Warning Score-2 (NEWS2)** is a standardised early warning system developed to improve detection and response to clinical deterioration.¹
- Local guidelines state all patients with NEWS ≥ 5 should be escalated to a clinician within 15 minutes; reviewed within an hour; and ongoing hourly observations documented.
- Sepsis Trust guidelines recommend taking lactate and blood cultures in all patients with NEWS ≥ 5 at risk of sepsis.²

RESULTS

- Second cycle data shows that ongoing monitoring of patients with high NEWS is much more effective than in 2022.
- In other parameters we are not yet meeting our targets.
- Improvement is needed in the rate of patients clinically reviewed within an hour.
- Timely collection of lactate and blood cultures in patients at risk of sepsis also requires further improvement.

Compliance with Escalation Policy



AIMS

- To compare local practices around escalation of deteriorating patients to local policy and national guidelines.
- To assess if measures instituted by the trust have induced change.

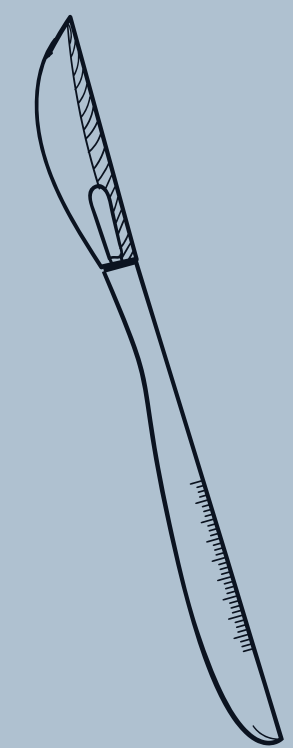
METHOD

- Cycle 1:**
- Notes of all patients on trauma ward assessed October to December 2022.
 - **20** patients with NEWS ≥ 5 identified.

- Change:**
- Mandatory training on response to deteriorating patients introduced for all staff.
 - RAPID response team developed.
 - New simulation training for all resident doctors.

- Cycle 2:**
- Cycle repeated between March and May 2025.
 - **19** patients identified.

- What can we learn from Buckinghamshire Trust?³**
- January 2014, 57% of patients with NEWS ≥ 5 were escalated for review. 33% reviewed within an hour.
 - Introduced teaching for all staff on the relevance of NEWS scores and extended ANP roles to help with escalation response.
 - Continued to audit monthly, rotating between every ward in the trust.
 - By June escalation rate had improved to 70%; with 85% reviewed within an hour.
 - Periodic education and monitoring of escalation practices may have helped to instil lasting understanding on the importance of escalation policy. We hope to replicate this at NBT.



CONCLUSIONS & NEXT STEPS

- Measures taken thus far have improved compliance with policy but there is still work to do.
- Future plans include use of the Sepsis Trust 'Acute Assessment Screening Tool' and an ongoing process of education and evaluation that has proven effective in trusts facing difficulties in meeting similar targets.

References:

1. Royal College of Physicians (2017). National Early Warning Score (NEWS) 2. [online] Royal College of Physicians . Available at: <https://www.rcp.ac.uk/improving-care/resources/national-early-warning-score-news-2/>.
2. The UK Sepsis Trust (2024). The Sepsis Manual . [online] United Kingdom Sepsis Trust. Available at: <https://sepsistrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Sepsis-Manual-7th-Edition-2024-V1.0.pdf>.
3. Spiers, L., Singh Mohal, J., Pearson-Stuttard, J., Greenlee, H., Carmichael, J. and Busher, R. (2015). Recognition of the deteriorating patient. BMJ Quality Improvement Reports, [online] 4(1). doi:<https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjquality.u206777.w2734>.