



Palliative Care Indicator Tool for Patients with End Stage Liver Disease

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Aim

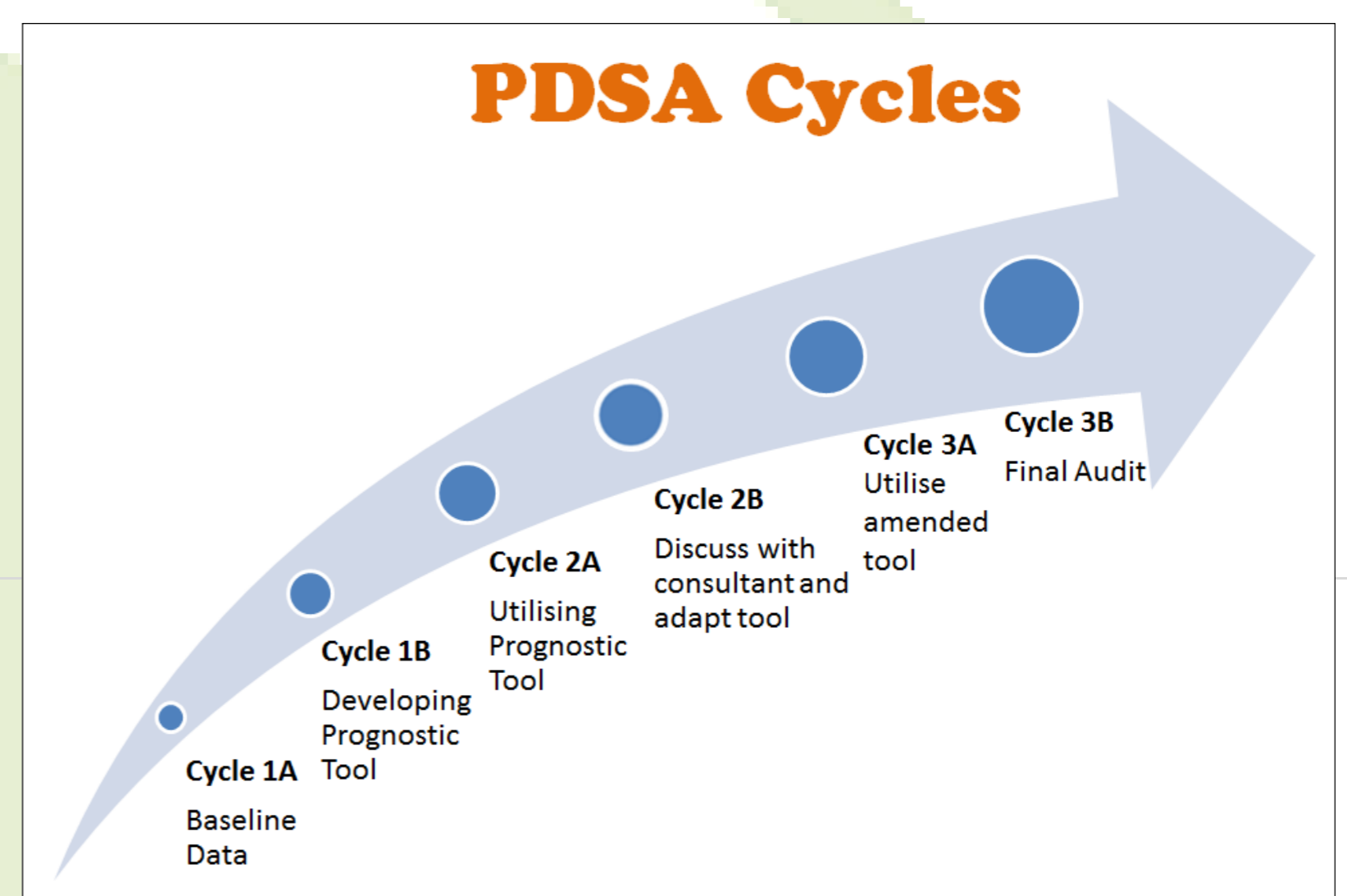
To identify patients that require poor prognosis discussion and palliative care input with the implementation of a poor prognostic screening tool for the deteriorating patient with End Stage Liver Disease. Our aim was that 80% of patients that scored using the tool had a poor prognosis discussion and letter sent to GP and referrals were made to district nurses or palliative care by end of December 2018.

Background

Liver disease is the only major cause of death still increasing year-on-year, twice as many people now die from liver disease as in 1991. From the Bereavement Voices Survey it was found where Liver disease was mentioned, carers were more likely to rate the coordination of care as not working well together compared to other illnesses. People dying from Liver disease often have complex end of life care needs and >70% die in hospital, even though this is not necessarily their wish.

Method

- 1st prognostic tool created and trialled after researching other trusts poor prognostic tools
- Data collected from utilising tool
- Amendments made to tool to make it simpler
- 2nd prognostic tool created and trialled
- Data collected and analysed
- Tool amended again, after discussion with consultants and then passed by documentation group

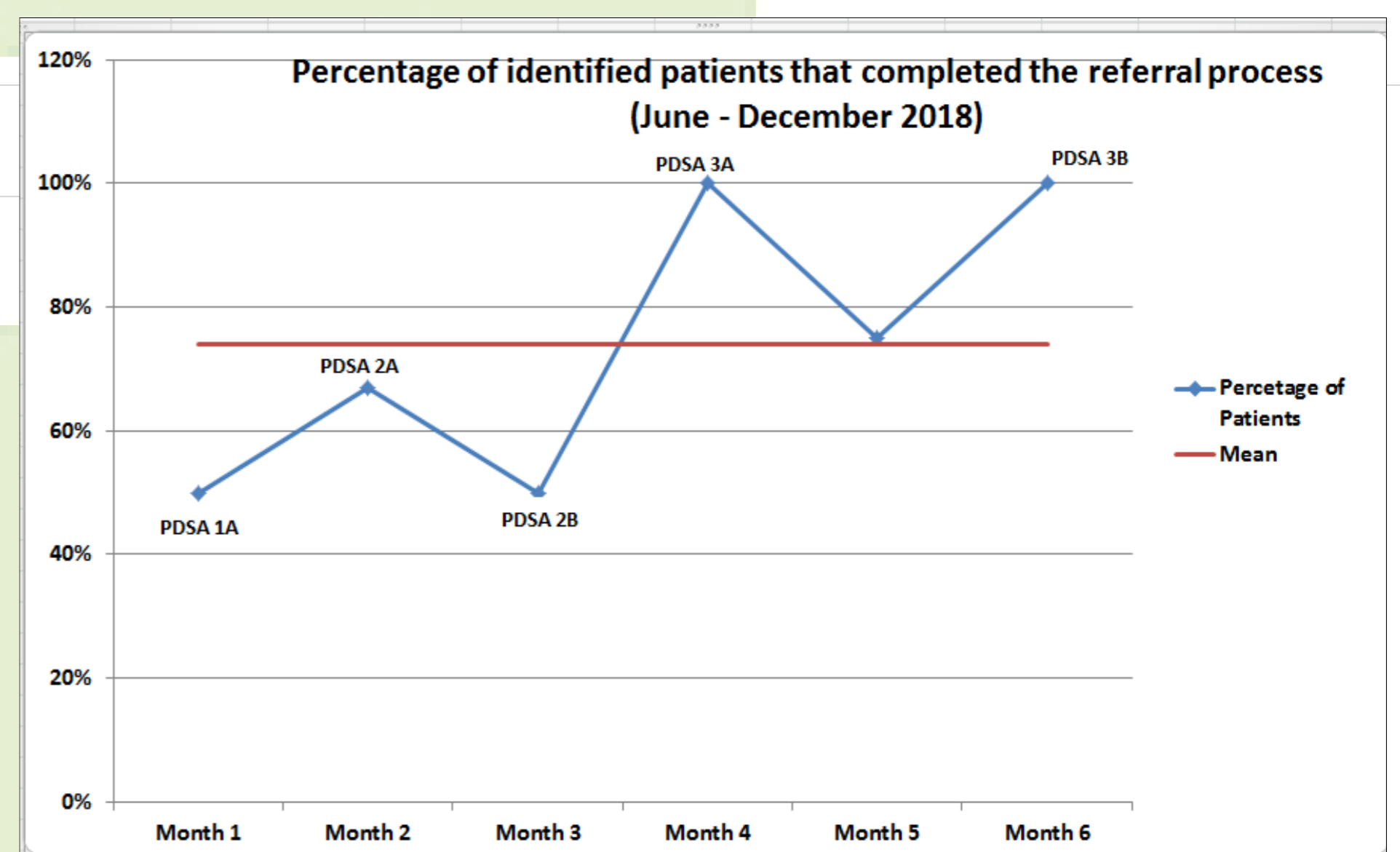


Poor Prognosis Screening		Tick
Unsuitable for transplant due to		<input type="checkbox"/>
Child Pugh calculation score C (see below)		<input type="checkbox"/>
If yes to both please consider		Tick
Poor prognosis discussion with consultant and patient/family		<input type="checkbox"/>
Poor prognosis letter to GP		<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance care planning discussions		<input type="checkbox"/>
Referral to District Nurses DD/MM/YYYY		<input type="checkbox"/>
Allocation of Hepatology Specialist Nurse		<input type="checkbox"/>

Parameter	1	2	3
Ascites	Absent	Mild	Severe
Encephalopathy	None	Grade 1-2	Grade 3-4
Bilirubin	Less than 34.2	34.2-51.3	Greater than 51.3
Albumin	Greater than 35	28-35	Less than 28
INR	Less than 1.7	1.7-2.3	Greater than 2.3

Grade	Criteria
1	Trivial lack of awareness Euphoria or anxiety Shortened attention span Impaired performance of addition
2	Lethargy or apathy Minimal disorientation or time or place Subtle personality changes Inappropriate behaviour Impaired performance of subtraction
3	Somnolence to semi-stupor but responsive to verbal stimuli Confusion Gross disorientation
4	Coma

Results
 PDSA 1A 50%
 PDSA 2A 67%
 PDSA 3A 100%
 Average 74%



Outcomes

- Aim achieved as 100% of identified patients were referred to appropriate services
- Patients aware of their prognosis
- Enables discussions regarding choice in end of life care and patients wishes
- Collaborative working with community services to improve patient care

Next Steps

- Continue to use tool on the outpatient paracentesis patients
- Utilise tool on other decompensated outpatients.
- Trial of tool on Snowhill ward with an aim to roll out to the trust as a whole