



Gold Coast Health
Choosing Wisely - Pathology

CHOOSING WISELY PATHOLOGY

*An approach for increasing pathology efficiency and value
at Gold Coast Health*

Pathology Improvement Group, The Health Roundtable

Presented by Therese Kelly
19 October 2017



Landscape

National trends:

- Annual increases of 5-10% in clinical lab workload in Australian public hospitals (National Coalition of Public Pathology, 2012)

Gold Coast trend:

- Annual increases in pathology test volumes and expenditure

Are we choosing tests wisely?

- Overuse vs underuse
- Initial vs repeat
- Clinical setting vs patient pathway
- Ordering clinicians vs specialties/services
- What is appropriate ordering?



Overview

Background

- Commenced January 2016
- 2-person team (with consultancy advice)
- Executive, clinical, and business governance
- Pathology ordering behaviour with informatics



Objectives

- Assess current state pathology utilisation
- Determine clinical appropriateness
- Develop demand management strategies
- Improve patient safety and experience

Benefits

- Quality and safety
- Education and learning
- Enhanced value



Provide VALUE in healthcare while maintaining quality and safety



Clinical approach

Clinical engagement

- Focus on specialties and service areas
- Involve lead medical, nursing, and pathology representatives
- Profile pathology utilisation
- Target key tests for review
- Establish benefits register
- Support ordering behaviour change

Health service wide

- Universal guidelines for common tests

Demand management

- Clinical audit and practice review
- Clinical guidelines and pathways
- Quality and process control changes
- Education, orientation, and handover processes
- Performance analysis and benchmarking
- Research and evaluation

Project has engaged with 11 specialties and service areas:

*Emergency Medicine
Maternity
Gynaecology
Adult Critical Care
Psychiatry
Haematology
Respiratory Medicine
General Medicine
Gastroenterology
Neurology
Rehabilitation*



Data approach

Rich pathology data

- Using clinical costing data
- Profile pathology utilisation by:
 - Specialty / service area
 - Test ordering patterns
 - Patient groups
- Benchmarking available

Interactive dashboard

- Visualises pathology data for:
 - Data discovery
 - Performance reporting
 - Audit capability
 - Trend analysis
- Powerful information
- Clinician / business user friendly



DATA



KNOWLEDGE



ACTION

Efficiency

Sustained change

- Reduced unnecessary testing for patients
- Decreased test volumes and spend
- Treating more patients
- Value-based testing (not volume-driven)

Financial performance

18 months pre-project versus during project:

- Test volumes reduced by 5,600 (0% growth)
- Test spend increased by \$770,000 (2% growth)
- WAU increased by 38,000 (14% growth)
- Pathology cost per WAU reduced by \$14 (-10% growth)

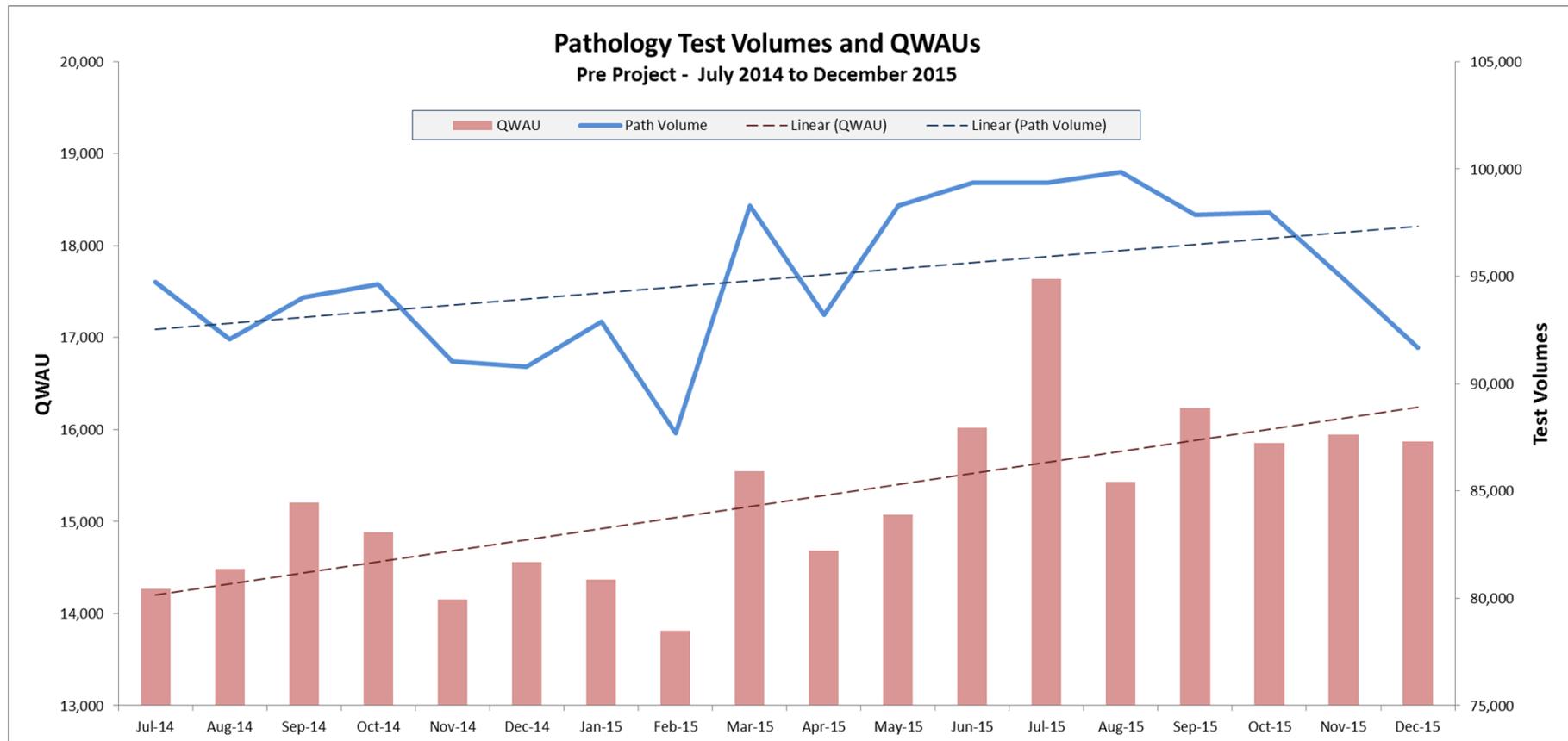


Our approach with clinicians is framed by promoting wise choices and avoiding patients having unnecessary tests

... and by engaging in this process authentically the cost improvements have followed

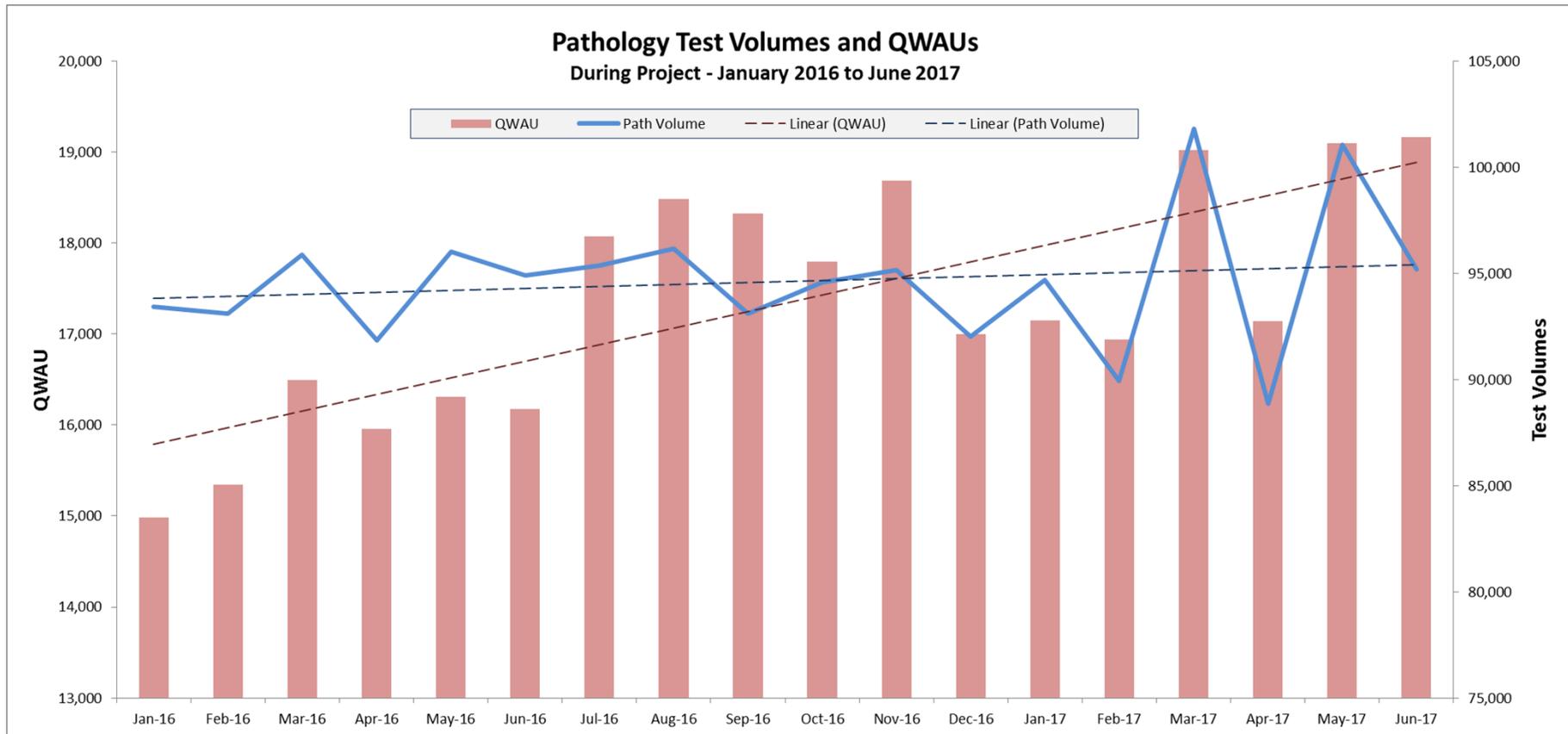


Performance: Pre Project





Performance: During Project





Value

Test utilisation (samples)

- CRP: 63% reduction in ED / 43% reduction overall HHS
- RESPCR: 80% reduction in ED / 38% reduction overall HHS
- BLOOD GAS: 50% reduction in Adult ICU (preliminary)
- GROUP B STREP: 33% reduction in Maternity (antenatal)

Ordering based on clinical need



Quality and safety

- Improving patient experience
- Saving medical/nursing time (unrequired test)
- Saving laboratory time and equipment (test registration, processing, etc)
- Saving consumables (tubes, bags, labels, etc)
- Reducing 'no tests' and retests
- Minimising variation of care

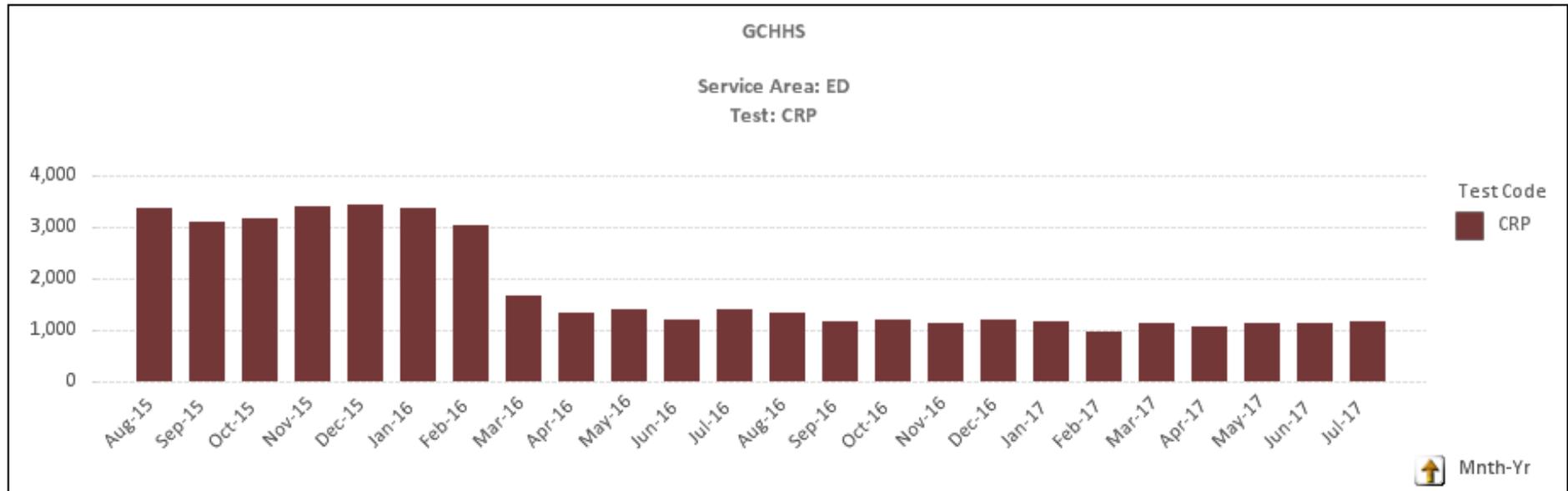


Reinvest time, consumables, and equipment into quality patient care



Example Tests

CRP (c-Reactive Protein)



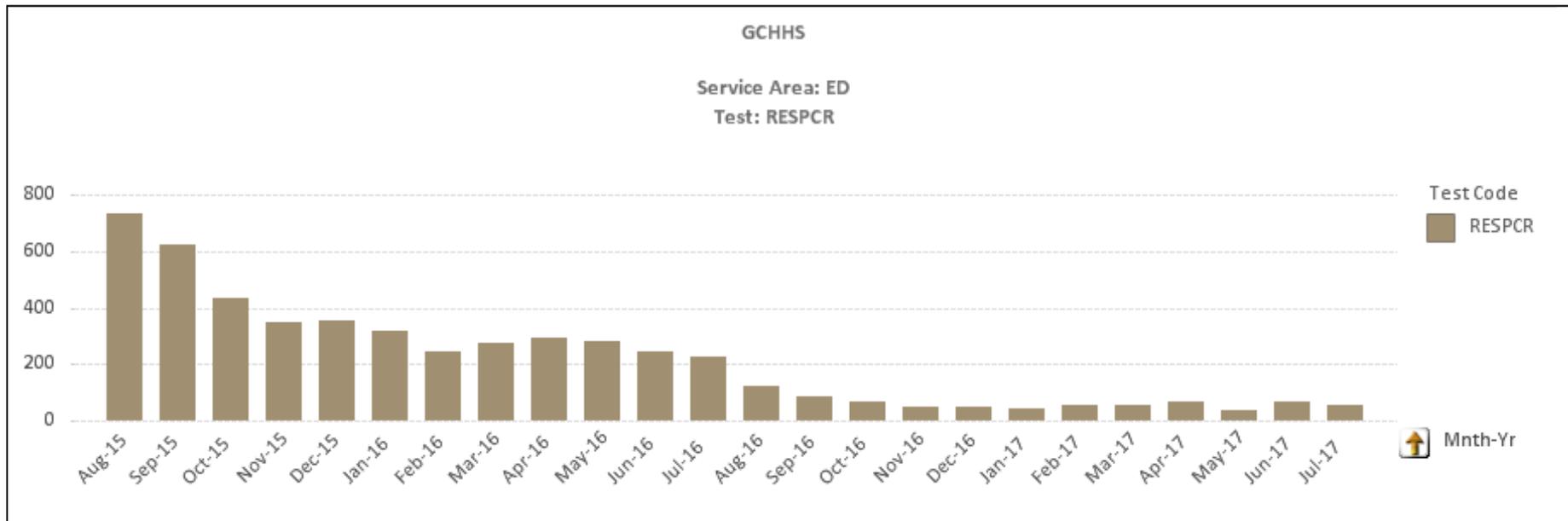
Excerpt from Pathology Dashboard created by Gold Coast Health

- This graph clearly shows the drop in CRP ordering that has been sustained since March 2016
- It demonstrates a 63% reduction of CRP ordering within the Emergency Department
- There was an associated reduction of 43% overall for Gold Coast Health



Example Tests (continued)

RESPCR (Respiratory PCR)



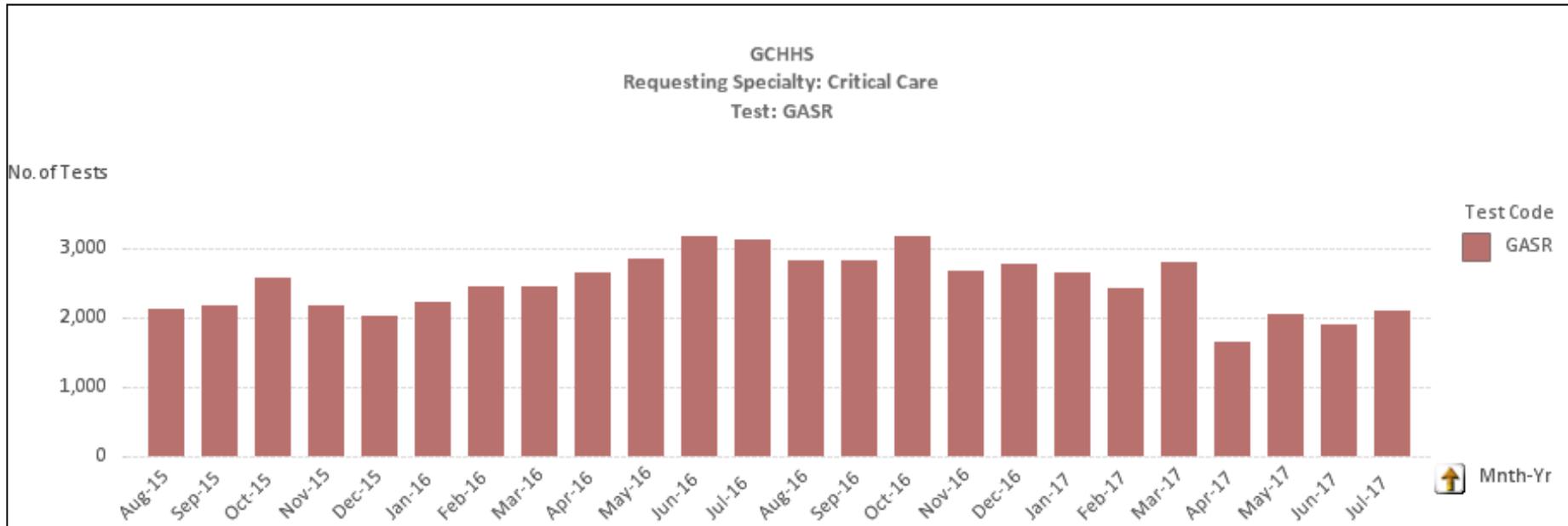
Excerpt from Pathology Dashboard created by Gold Coast Health

- This graph shows from around June 2016, there was a marked reduction in the number of RESPCRs ordered during the winter months (compared to the 2015 year) within the Emergency Department
- There was an associated 38% reduction of ordering RESPCRs for Gold Coast Health



Example Tests (continued)

GASR (Blood Gas Remote)



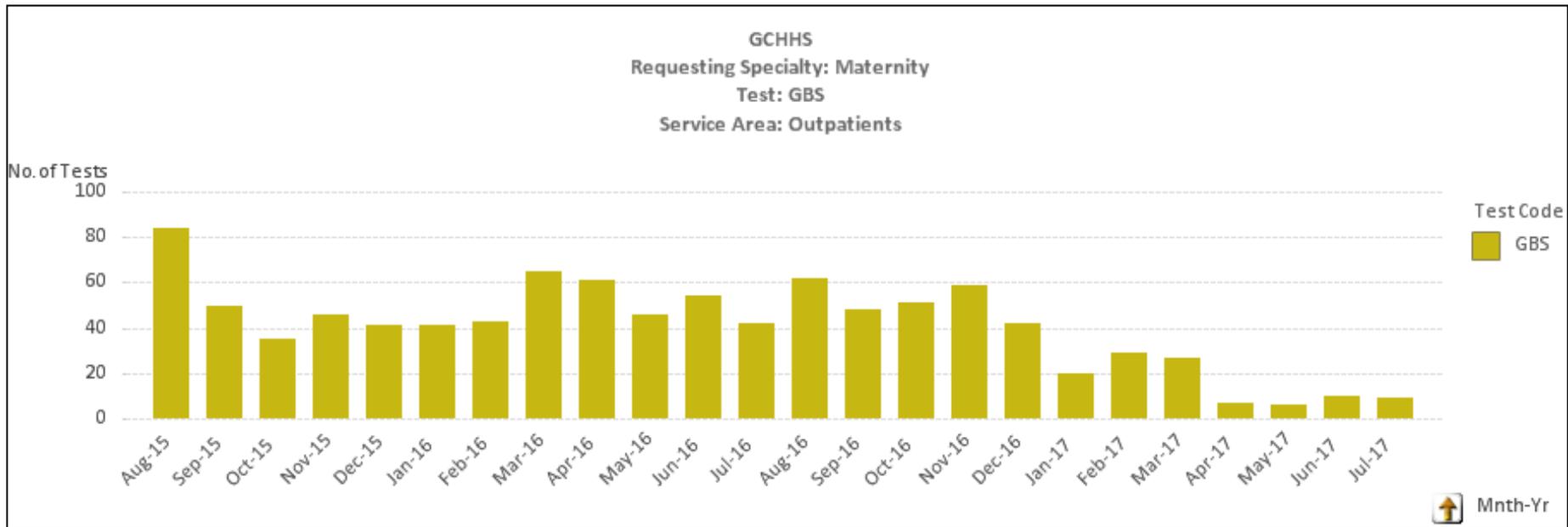
Excerpt from Pathology Dashboard created by Gold Coast Health

- This graph shows a reduction in Blood Gases ordered by the Intensive Care team from April 2017 onwards
- This strategy involves targeting the routine tests conducted between 4-6am daily, as they are deemed unnecessary



Example Tests (continued)

GBS (Group G Strep)



Excerpt from Pathology Dashboard created by Gold Coast Health

- This graph shows a reduction in Group B Strep tests ordered by the Maternity service in the antenatal setting from January 2017 onwards
- This strategy was actioned through ensuring compliance with the state approved risk-based ordering guideline, rather than the screening model being occasionally followed

Why choosing wisely?

Growing movement

- Australian and international campaign
- Led by Australia's medical colleges and societies
- Promotes conversations about tests, treatments, and procedures to question
- First health service in Queensland / Australia to join pilot program



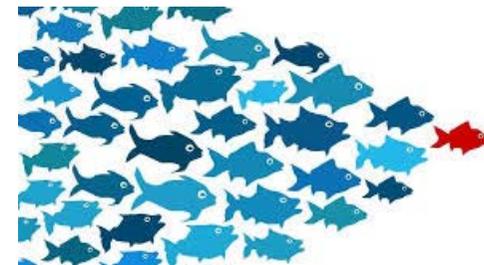
Cultural change

- Led by clinicians with consumers at the centre
- Self assessment: what is appropriate?
- Evidence based
- Transferable and scalable



Influence

- External reputation is positive
- Engagement and approach is working
- Clinical and business improvement happening
- Presentations at state and national conferences
- Lead choosing wisely site in Australia





Opportunity to expand

Value-based healthcare

- Increasing patient activity growth
- Budgetary and cost pressures
- Seek efficiencies within current practice
- Invest wisely to save (quality and cost savings)

Scope expansion



Dr Michael O'Reilly and Brylee Wheeler demonstrate the success of pathology ordering improvements by choosing wisely in the Emergency Department

Expand choosing wisely program to other clinical services (with resource investment)	Medical Imaging
	Medicines Management / Antimicrobial Stewardship
	Blood / Blood Products
	Plus other clinical interventions and procedures
Digital hospital readiness	Culture change prior to implementation
	Decision support and order controls
Education and research	University and clinical research collaborations
	Clinical education and orientation
Commercialisation	Informatics tools and engagement approach
	Product development and partnerships
Consumer engagement	Consumer resources for choosing wisely



Contact

- Questions or further information?

NAME	ROLE	CONTACT
Project Team	Generic Email	gcchoosingwisely@health.qld.gov.au
Kristy Hayes	Service Director Infectious Diseases and Immunology Gold Coast Health	Kristy.Hayes@health.qld.gov.au
Therese Kelly	Project Manager Choosing Wisely – Pathology Gold Coast Health	Therese.Kelly@health.qld.gov.au

