

Get It On Time:

In-Patient Administration of Parkinson's Disease Medication in South Tyneside & Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

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INTRODUCTION

The timely administration of Parkinson's Disease (PD) medications is essential for better motor symptom control, leading to improved patient safety and outcomes.

Recommended standard (NICE Guidelines & Parkinson's UK)^{1,2}: All hospital in-patients with PD should get their PD medications **within 30 minutes** of their prescribed administration time.

Audit aims:

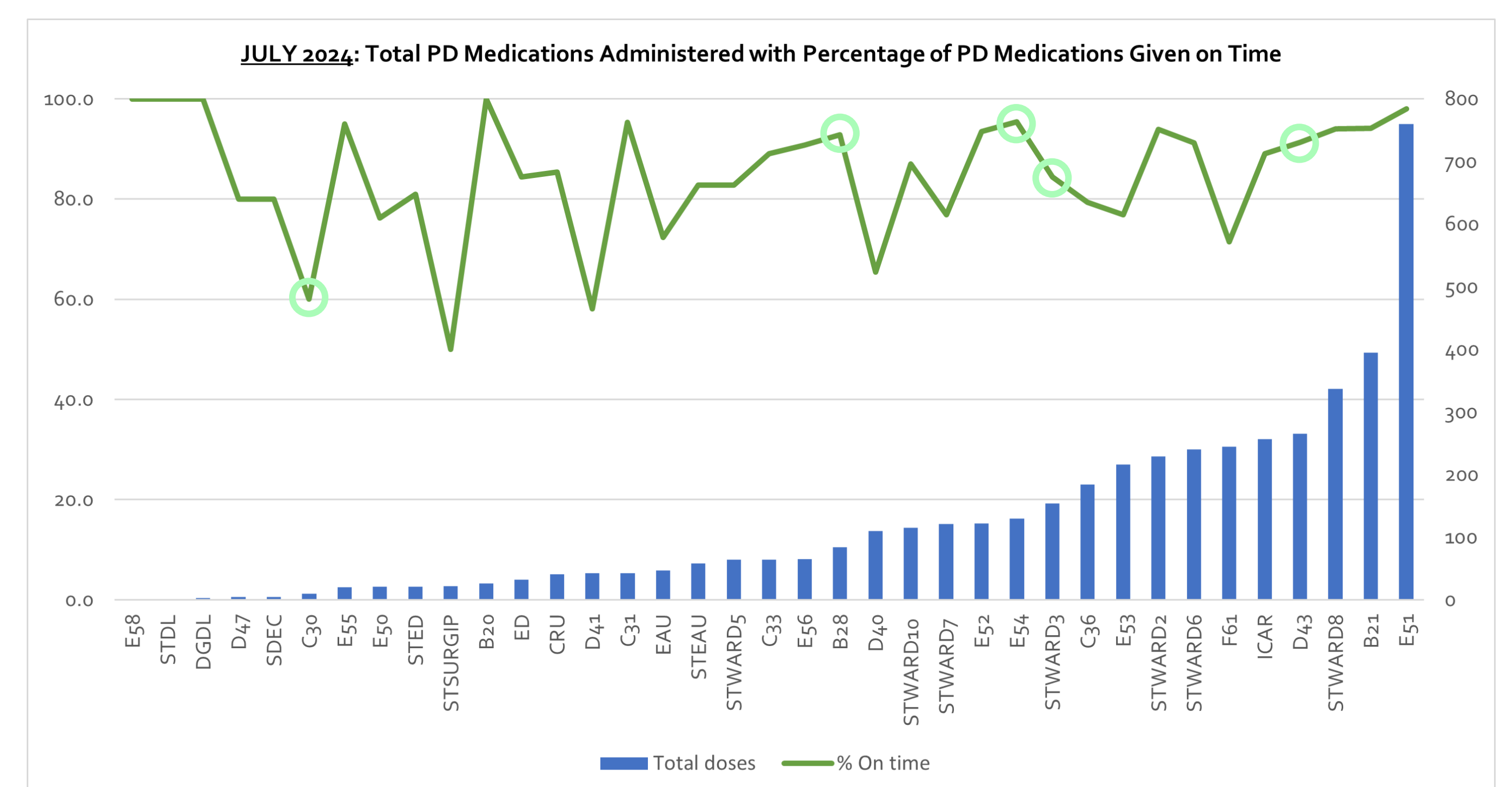
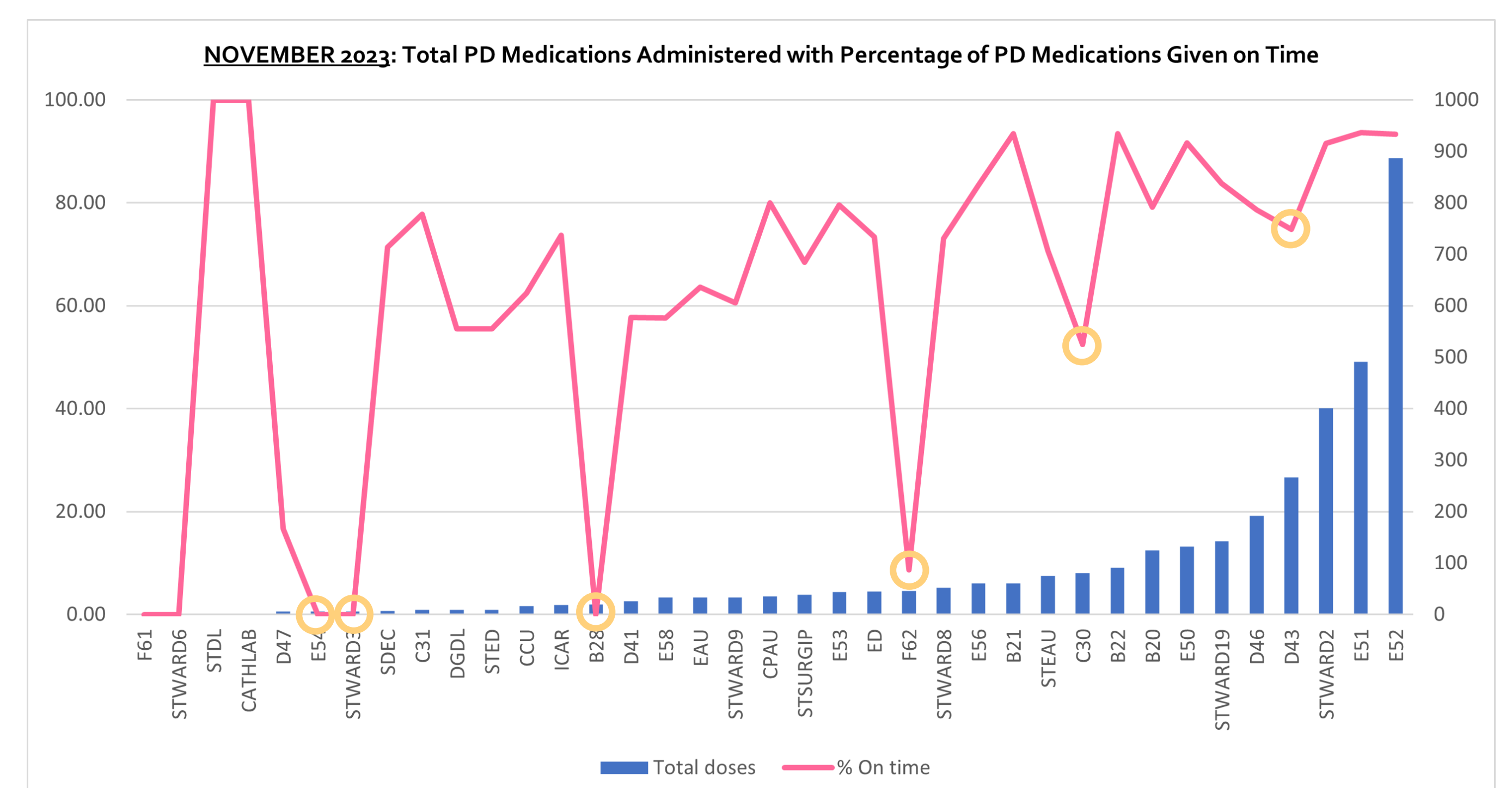
- To assess the adherence of timely administration of PD medications amongst in-patients at South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
- To compare this performance pre- and post-interventions

METHODS

- A two-cycle audit was conducted on November 2023 (pre-intervention) and July 2024 data (post-intervention).
- **Sample:** All in-patients with PD who were prescribed PD medications in the months of November 2023 and July 2024.
- Data on all doses of PD medications administered in the trust and whether they were given on time was collected via the trust's data warehouse application.
- The percentage of PD medication doses given on time was calculated based on location (wards).
- Lower-performing wards were identified and interventions (surveys, education and training) were carried out in April-May 2024.

RESULTS

- The trustwide percentage of PD medications given on time in November 2023 was 83.46% (n=2920), with varied performance across the trust (ranging 0-100%).
- Six low performing wards were identified; responses from staff surveys (n=15) cited common barriers to achieving best practice being: clinical pressures, patient factors, medication being unavailable, and forgotten timings.
- Staff education, further training, pharmacy involvement and strategies to overcome these barriers were implemented in these areas. Post-intervention, all six wards had improved results: 7.5-95.4% increases from the previous rates.
- In July 2024, the percentage of PD medications given on time in the trust increased to 88.32% (n=4024), with improved consistency in trustwide performance (ranging 50-100%).
- New lower-performing wards which would benefit from interventions in future cycles of this audit were identified.



DISCUSSION

- High volume wards tend to perform better with >90% of doses administered on time, while locations with <10 doses mostly had all given on time (100%), or all not on time (0%).
- Identifying perceived barriers and introducing simple interventions improved performance in the targeted wards.
- The overall trustwide improvement is also likely accounted for by the ongoing work and engagement with the Parkinson's UK 'Get It On Time' campaign.
- Adhering to the pledge of 10 recommendations³ has resulted in time critical medications being discussed frequently in areas across the trust, thus increasing awareness and prioritisation of timely administration of PD medications.

CONCLUSION

- Over two audit cycles, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust showed improvement in the percentage of in-patients getting their PD medications on time.
- The post-intervention data also illustrates the positive impact of interventions such as education and training.
- This work has contributed to our trust being recognised as a best practice case study by Parkinson's UK.⁴

REFERENCES

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4. Parkinson's UK. Benchmarking to improve the delivery of time critical medication at South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust: best practice case study: Parkinson's UK; 2024. Available from: <https://www.parkinsons.org.uk/professionals/resources/time-critical-medications-south-tyneside-sunderland-case-study>.