

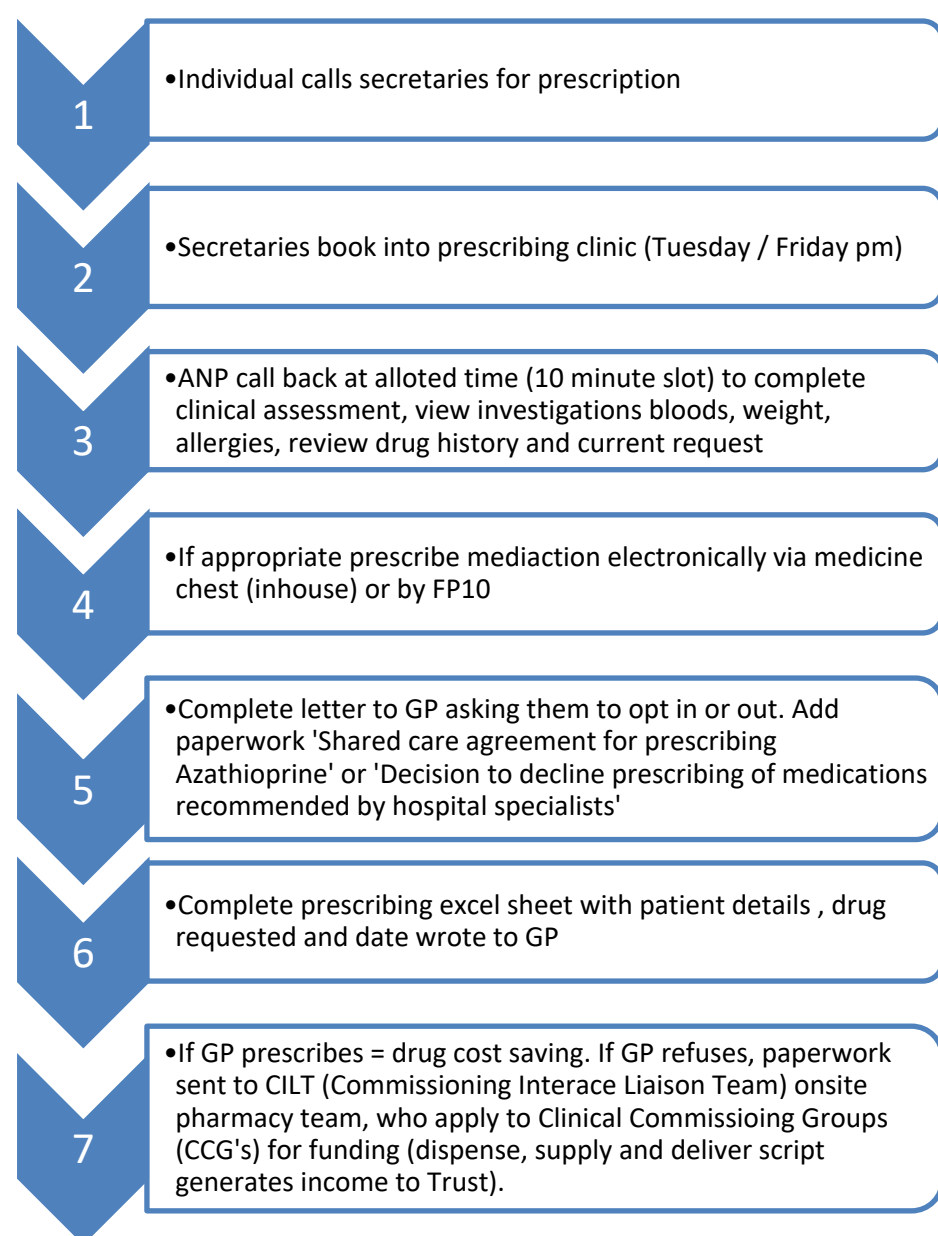
Background

The Gastroenterology and Nutrition Team at Birmingham Children's Hospital provide a world class service to the paediatric population of West Midlands and beyond. The team treat one of the largest cohorts of patients in Europe with Inflammatory Bowel Disease and patients with intestinal failure on home parental nutrition and other varieties of gastrointestinal diseases.

Many patients are on long-term medication, which could lead to requests for repeat prescriptions. The Covid-19 pandemic increased this demand significantly due to remote workings.

The Advanced Practitioner recognised that the process did not provide safe or effective issuing of repeat prescriptions, which could compromise patient safety. From exploring the process it led to implementing a service improvement initiative while promoting prescribing governance.

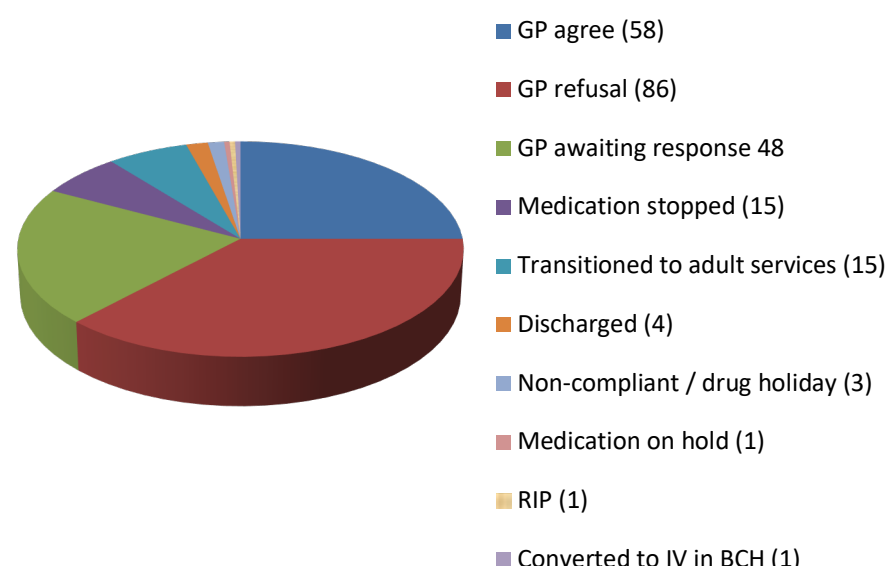
New Process



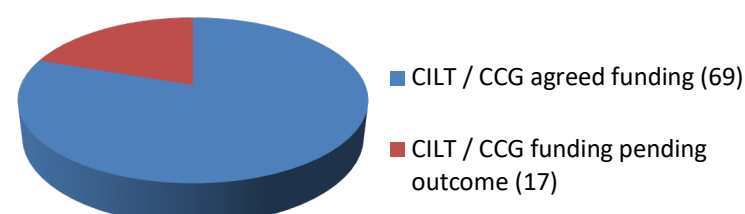
Summary of findings (as of 26/10/21)

Total patient requests for repeat prescriptions =232 patients *likely more
Number of drugs requested=435

Medication prescription requests



GP Medication Refusals



Summary

Demands on NHS services continually evolve and the Covid-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on service delivery. It is imperative that professionals work in an environment that can challenge current practice and that they have the support to implement innovative and new ideas.

Auditing this service improvement process has shown that it has promoted collaborative workings with colleagues in primary care, in-house pharmacists, CILT and CCGs. Adapting the previous system where prescribing was done by multiple team members and GP refusals were not acted on, has improved the patient pathway, enriched patient safety in gaining a timely assessment by an advanced practitioner, whilst saving and generating income to the Trust.

References

Royal College of Nursing (2021) Prescribing safely under Covid-19. Available at: www.rcn.org/clinical-topics/medicines-management/covid-19-remote-prescribing (Accessed: 15th November 2021)

Royal Pharmaceutical Society (2021) A competency framework for all prescribers. London: Royal Pharmaceutical Society



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