

The Impact of Pharmacy Assistants on Care Home Prescribing Quality

Background

- People in care homes have more complex needs and are on more medication than before.
- Medicine was being stock piled and inappropriately ordered in the homes.
- NHS Fife felt that support was required for medicines management within the care homes to provide staff more time to care.

Aim

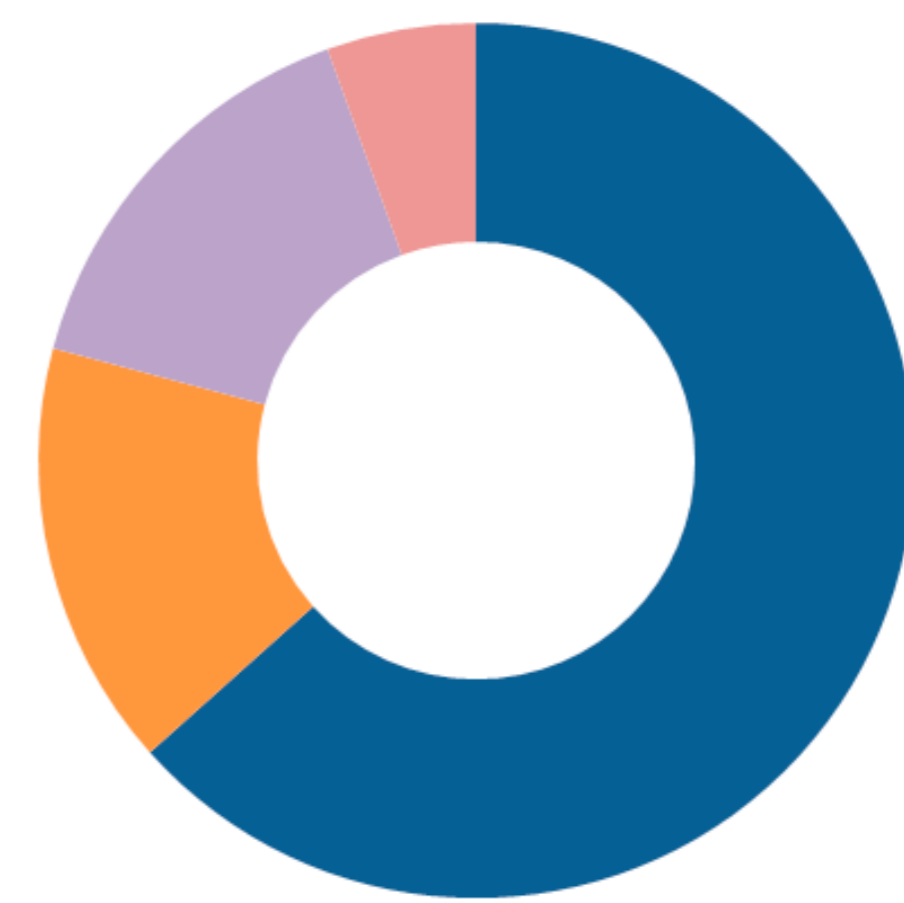
- Create a sustainable model.
- Provide a link between the care homes, community pharmacy and GP surgeries.
- Reduce overall waste costs from overstocks and inappropriate returns.
- Release time for staff to care

Method

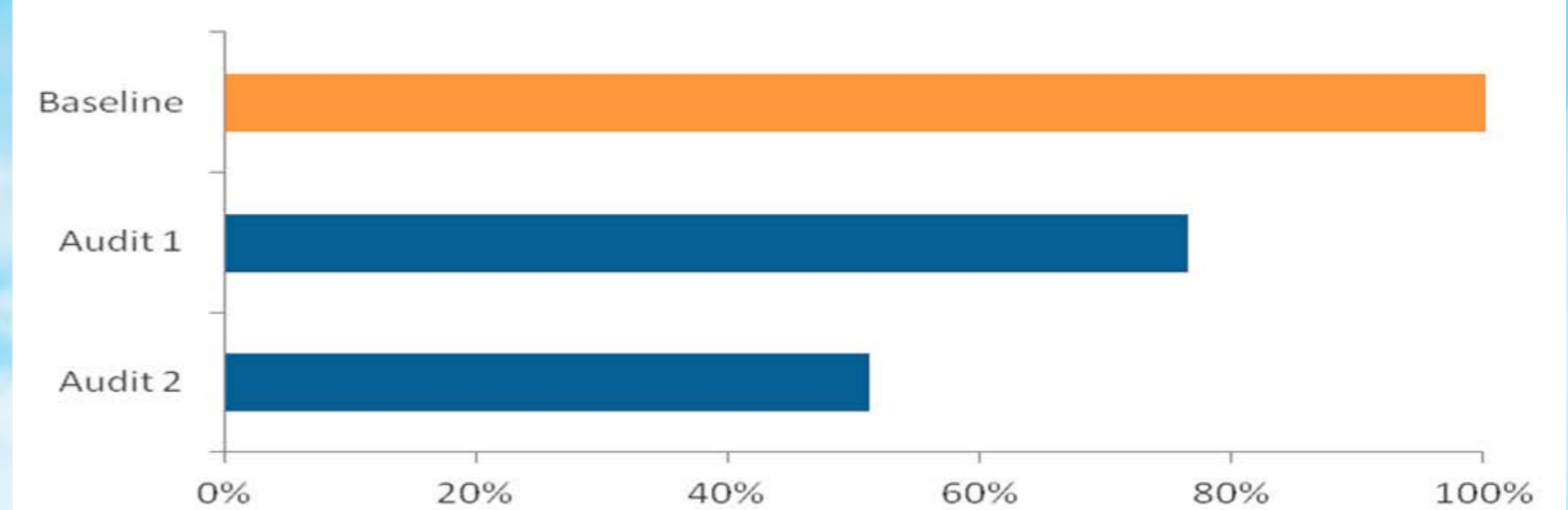
- Build trusting relationships with staff and residents in the first instance.
- Identify main problem areas and overstocks.
- Began leading on the medicines management process using the correct procedures (FLOW CHART)
- Monitored interim prescriptions to ensure requests are appropriate
- Set up and maintained NPO in the 12 homes.

Results

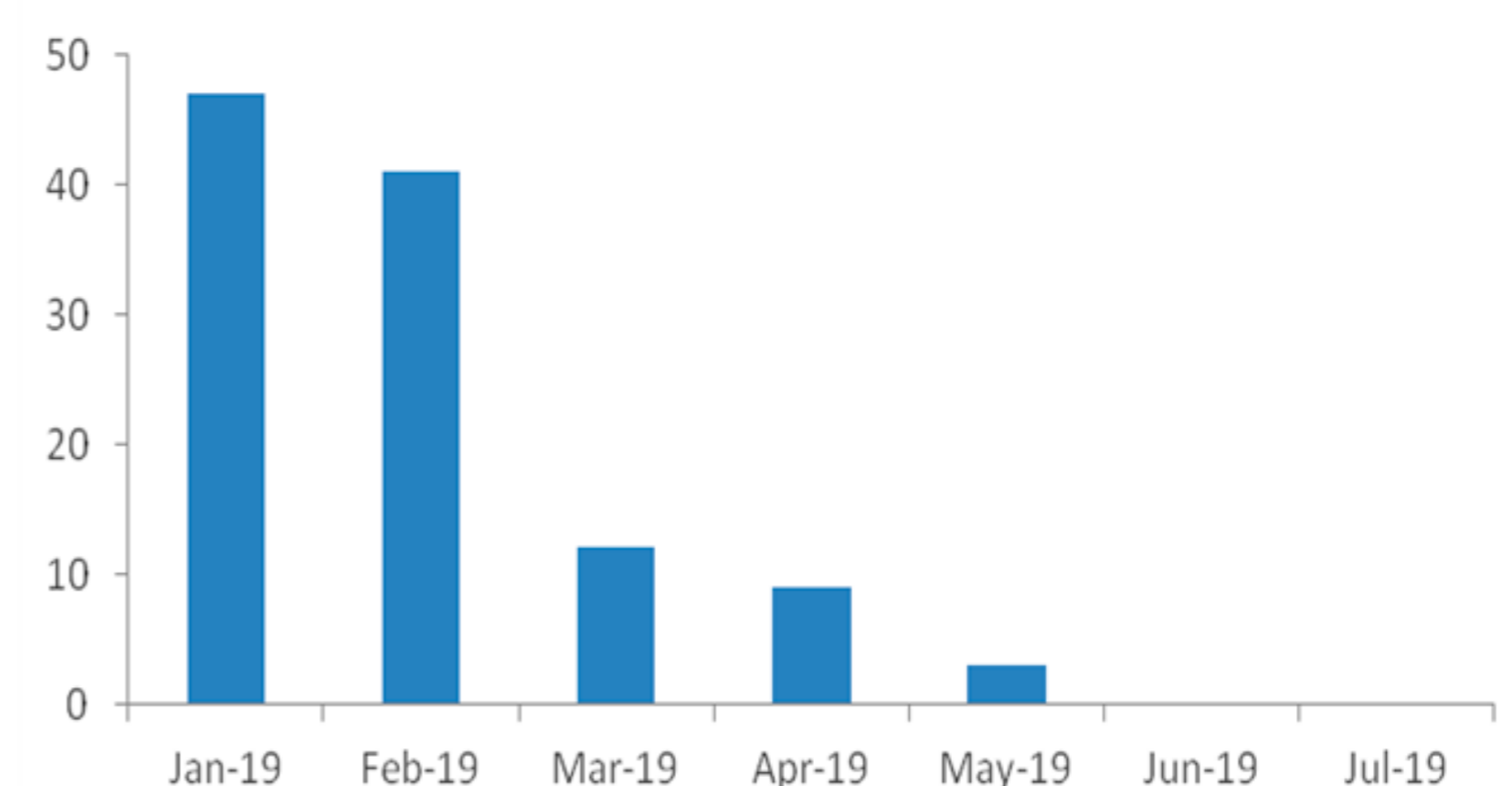
Pharmacy Assistant interventions:
Blocked Orders, Referrals, NPO and others



Comparison of stock holding at baseline and after interventions



MID CYCLE REQUESTS



Conclusion

- When there was a period of absence from the pharmacy assistants there was a significant increase in medication overstocks and mid-cycle prescription requests.
- Without the pharmacy assistants leading on the medication management there are more inappropriate requests and wastes.
- Time and money was saved by the pharmacy assistants leading on medication management and intervening on mid-cycle medication requests.