

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (QIP) TARGETS QUARTERLY TRUST BOARD REPORT NATIONAL EARLY WARNING SCORES (NEWS)

1 November 2018

NEWS systems record vital signs observations of respiratory rate, saturated oxygen levels, heart rate, blood pressure and consciousness level and were developed following review of approximately 450,000 patients charts. NEWS have been developed to help early detection of the acutely unwell patient and provide a standardized score to determine illness severity to support consistent clinical decision making and an appropriate clinical response.

When a patient presents to hospital and is acutely unwell, or becomes acutely unwell whilst in hospital, time is of the essence. A fast and efficient response is required to ensure that the patient is reviewed, assessed and treated by the correct person at the correct time to where possible prevent further deterioration.

Appropriate and accurate use of a NEWS system requires staff to complete a range of vital signs which have a numerical score assigned with agreed escalation guidance when scores reach different thresholds

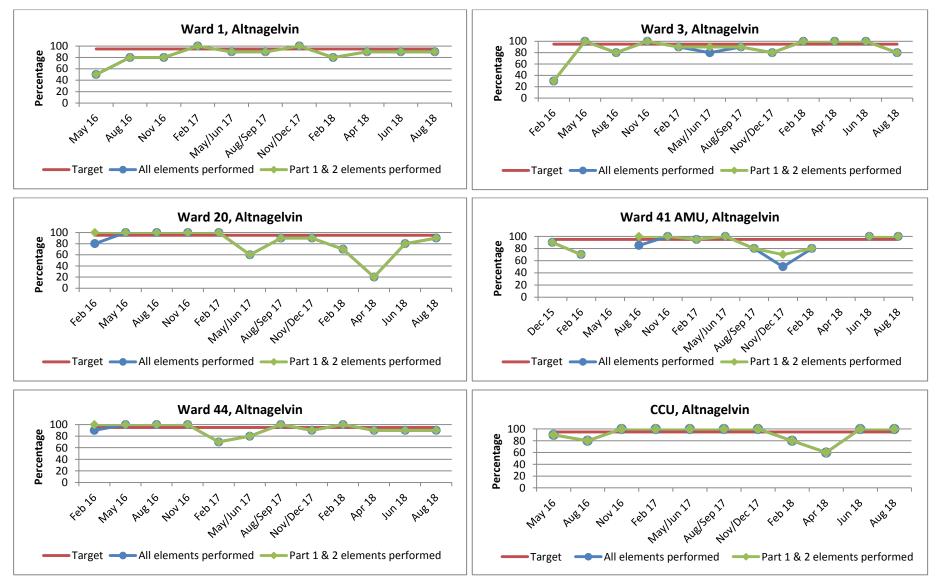
The NEWS system has been implemented across all acute adult in patient wards and acute mental health wards in the Trust. In the last three months work has been started to test NEWS charts in use in Acute Care at Home and Rapid Response teams.

Monitoring of compliance with NEWS is undertaken quarterly with improvement plans and associated support implemented.

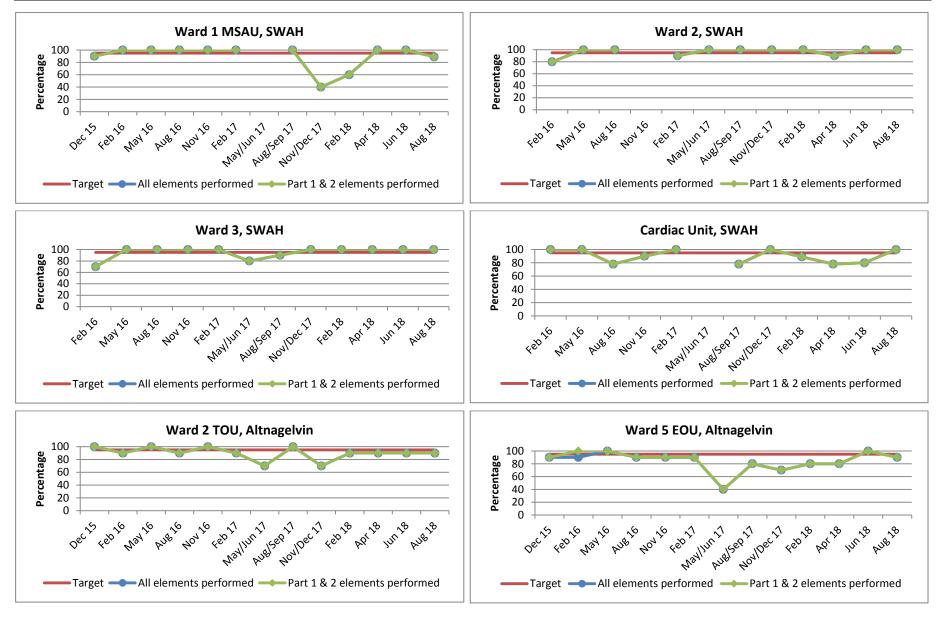
As we move forward an updated NEWS 2 chart has been developed by the Royal College of Physicians and the plan is to implement this across the region in 2019.

Quarterly Audits by Ward

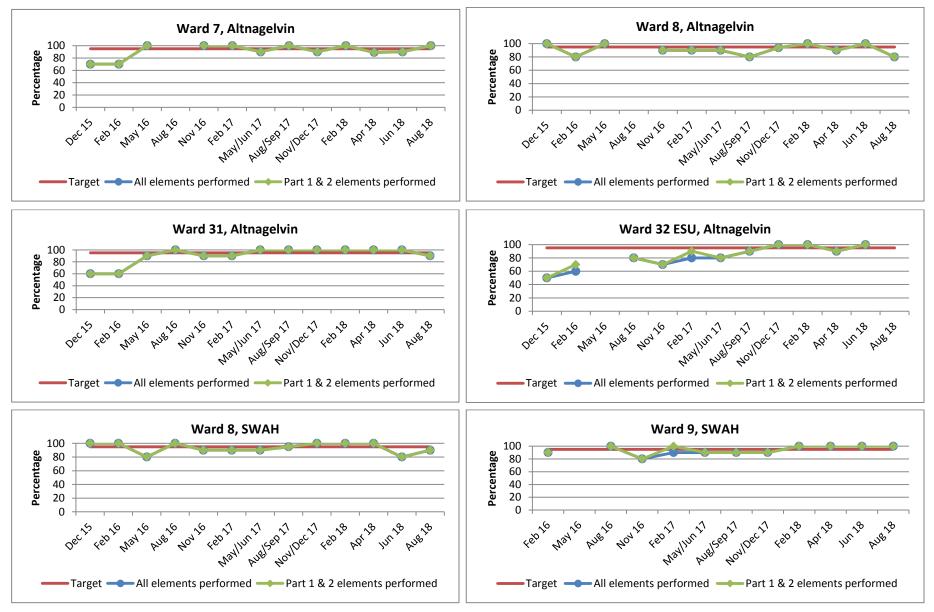
National Early Warning Scores (NEWS)



Target: To achieve 95% compliance with accurately completed NEWS charts in all adult inpatient wards.



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