This would in turn lead to improved Physical health outcomes, especially in the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Methods.** The NEWS chart is based on a simple aggregate scoring system in which a score is allocated to physiological measurements, when patients present to, or are being monitored in hospital. This will ensure that patients who are deteriorating, or at risk of deteriorating, will have a timely initial assessment. This should supplement clinical judgement in assessing the patient’s condition.

Early detection and escalation of deteriorating NEWS leads to improved patient outcomes and referral to the appropriate specialties, for subsequent management.

The initial phase of the QIP comprised of retrospective data collection surrounding the recognition and documentation of NEWS on an 18-bedded Old age Psychiatric ward. This period spanned the 2nd wave of the pandemic, from November- December.

Potential interventions were implemented in the form of raising NEWS awareness by educating nursing staff via teaching sessions, displaying posters all over the ward and nursing station. Team also reviewed all NEWS charts everyday during ward management rounds which served as a daily reminder for the staff measuring the observations.

NEWS of & greater than 3 was defined as the threshold for escalation.

Following change implementation, data were collected to capture the progress made over a month.

**Results.** Analysis of data pre and post- interventions displayed a significant improvement in escalation of unwell patients from 26% to 60%.

**Conclusion.** Improved outcomes and early detection of potentially deteriorating patients, leading to early transfer of patients to an Acute Medical setting and better overall management.

**Lithium Monitoring Within NHS Forth Valley 2020**

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**Aims.** The aim of this audit is to improve the monitoring of appropriate parameters in patients within the health board who are prescribed lithium, including lithium level, urea and electrolytes, thyroid function tests, calcium. It will also look at whether the same patients are appropriately referred to renal services.

**Methods.** A retrospective review of electronic patient records of 100% of the patients in Forth Valley Health Board who have collected a lithium prescription in the 6 months between March and August 2020.

**Results.** 69% of patients had a lithium level checked within the time period set out in the NICE guideline. Only 43% complied with the guideline on renal referral and 63% on calcium. Compliance with assessment of urea and electrolytes was better at 90%, and thyroid function tests at 85%.

**Conclusion.** Part of the decline in compliance with guidelines is likely in relation to the availability of face-to-face appointments during the pandemic, and reduction in outpatient appointments. As a result of this there is a planned further audit looking at how lithium monitoring is reviewed in outpatient psychiatry. This is intended to increase the involvement of psychiatry and the patient in ensuring appropriate monitoring is completed rather than relying solely on the GP.

“Drilling Down”: psychiatry and dentistry in collaborative action

Dr Chiara Cattra1,2,3 and Dr Elizabeth Gonzalez Malaga4