The Development of a Level 1 Enhanced Care Unit on AMU
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Introduction
The Princess Royal University Hospital AMU comprises two wards. There are two monitored level 1 enhanced care bays each with four beds. With no level 2 care unit, these monitored bays form the next level of care after ITU.

Aim
This QIP monitored our current practice within the level 1 enhanced care unit. PDSA cycle 1 was a prospective study which measured the percentage of patients in the acute take requiring monitoring and explored their monitoring needs based against guidelines set by the Royal College of Physicians Acute Care Toolkit 6. It also sought to assess the availability of this unit to the acute take and our documentation of monitoring needs for these patients.

PDSA cycle 2 was a further prospective study which focussed on the assessment of our documentation with respect to clear action, step-down and treatment escalation plans after a checklist sticker was introduced.

PDSA 1
Inclusion criteria: all patients 18-75yrs admitted for one week following acute admissions pathway.
116 patients admitted during PDSA Cycle 1
- 25% required Level 1 enhanced care
- 41% of this group were admitted to the unit

PDSA 2

Conclusions
The introduction of the monitored bay checklist significantly improved the documentation of monitoring needs for patients in the Level 1 enhanced care unit. This has many beneficial implications for the unit, including facilitation of early step-downs to free up availability of these monitored beds for patients who most require them as well as improving staff confidence in managing patients within the unit. There is further scope for improvement but the project has been a good starting point in the development of this Level 1 enhanced care unit.

References