

Maintaining paediatric sickle cell services in the COVID-19 pandemic: Report from a busy LHT

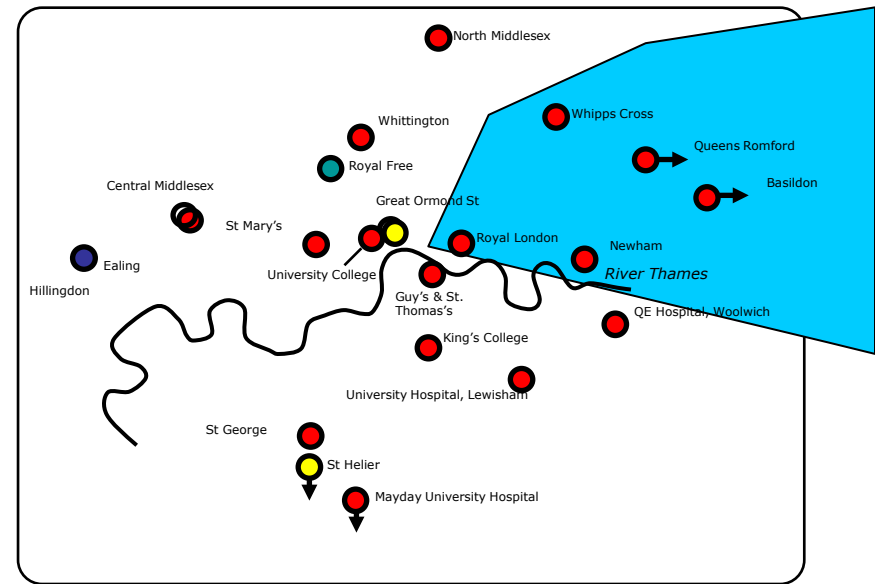
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BACKGROUND



- Basildon Hospital is an LHT serving approx. 150 paediatric sickle cell patients
- Part of East London and Essex Haemoglobinopathy network
- Our team:
 - 2 paediatric consultants with interest in sickle cell
 - 1 paediatric haematology CNS
 - 2 paediatric community sickle cell nurse specialists

AIMS

Investigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our paediatric sickle cell service

- acute activity
- elective activity
- clinical performance
- patient experience

METHODOLOGY

- “COVID-19 pandemic year”: 1st March 2020 - 28th February 2021
- Data were extracted from our SCD database and Electronic Medical Records and compared with data from the preceding 2-year period
- Online patient survey via SurveyMonkey (December 2020)
 - Focus on experience during the pandemic
 - Evaluation of interventions offered

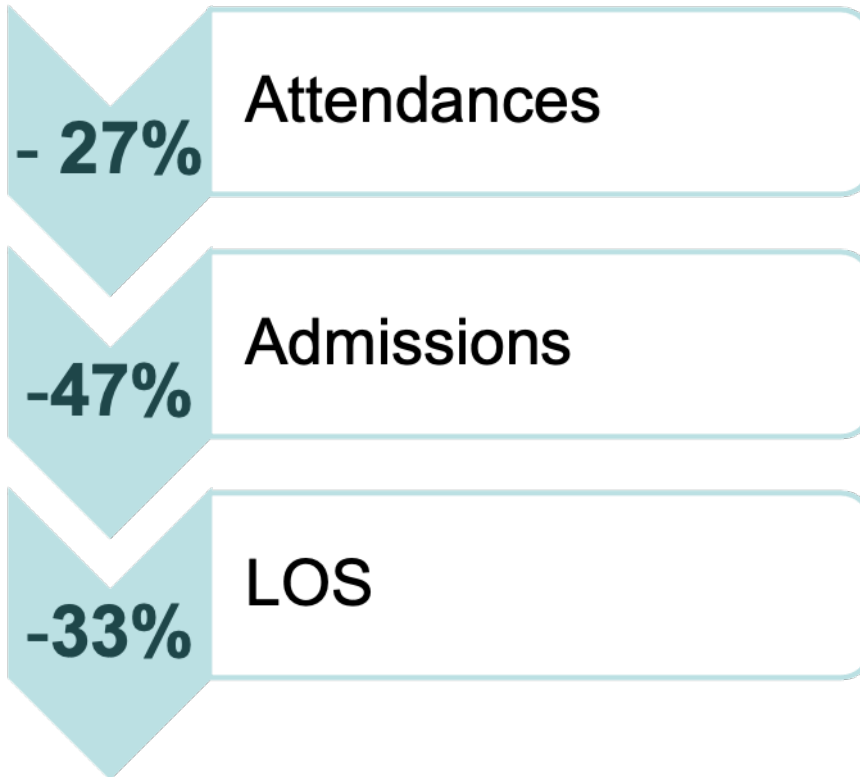
ACUTE ACTIVITY

- Acute paediatric services (children's A&E, PAU, paediatric wards) remained open
- Redeployment of some paediatric nursing and junior medical staff to adult/COVID wards during the second wave
- 2 Cases of COVID+ paediatric SCD patients
 - 5 year old boy admitted with fever and cough; remained well & discharged after 48 hrs of IV antibiotics
 - 3 year old girl with coryza, tested in community, not required admission
- No delayed presentations of SCD patients

ACUTE ACTIVITY

	Years (1 st March -28 th February)		
	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Number of hospital admissions	31	60	58
Number of hospital attendances	66	94	87
Mean LOS (days)	2.1 ± 0.7	3.4 ± 0.8	2.9 ± 0.5
Transfers out (HDU/PICU)	0	5	3
Mean time to first analgesia (minutes)	26	49	59
% cases with analgesia within 30 mins	77%	53%	45%

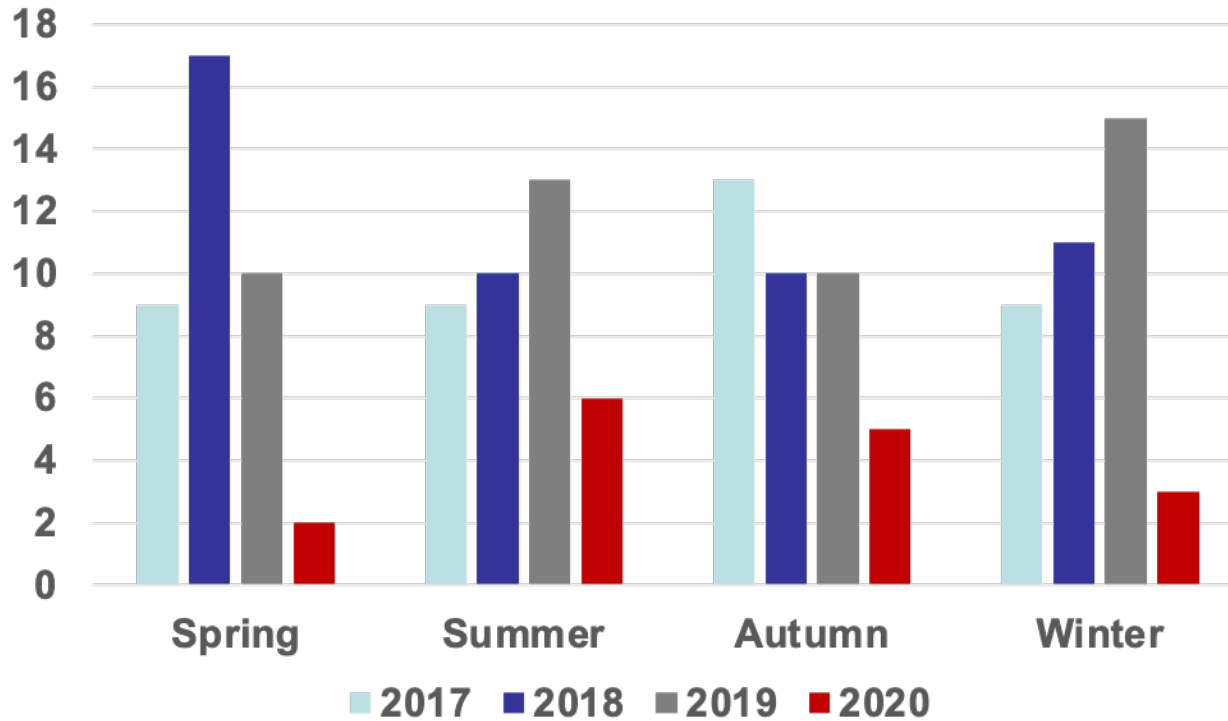
ACUTE ACTIVITY



Causes

- ? Less exposure to sickle crisis triggers
- ? Reluctance to attend hospital

Hospital Admissions



ELECTIVE ACTIVITY

- Elective transfusion programme
 - Hydroxycarbamide service
 - Dedicated Phlebotomy clinic
- Continued with no interruptions**
- In collaboration with our pharmacy, HU medication was couriered to patient homes' in selected cases
 - Outpatient clinics
 - Continued weekly, mix of telephone and F2F appointments
 - TCD Outreach clinics

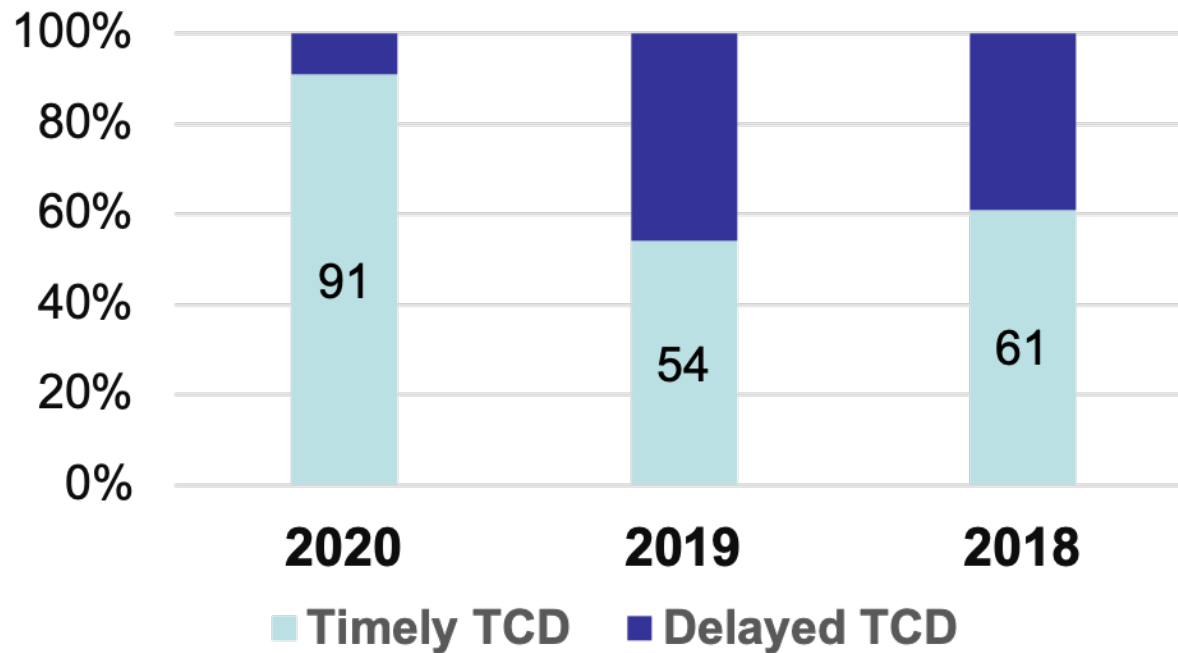
ELECTIVE ACTIVITY

	Years (1 st March -28 th February)		
	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Number of outpatient appointments	183	137	191
% of telephone clinics	44%	0%	0%
% of DNAs	9%	22%	17%

OUTREACH TCD CLINIC

- Set up locally in collaboration with our SHT
- Aiming to minimise patient travel during the pandemic, whilst ensuring continuous adherence to the TCD monitoring standards
- TCDs performed by visiting Paediatric Haematology consultant
- Monthly Clinics
- Full day list (am and pm)

ADHERENCE WITH TCD SCANNING TIMEFRAMES





PAEDIATRIC SICKLE CELL SERVICE
COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) AND SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Online discussion and live Q&A session
Wednesday 2 September 5-6.30pm

Zoom details: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82541211748> Meeting ID: 825 4121 1748 Passcode: 580253

If you have a question surrounding COVID-19 and sickle cell disease then submit for our upcoming session.



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Lara Odeku
Nurse specialist
NELFT

www.nelft.nhs.uk Zoom details: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82541211748> Meeting ID: 825 4121 1748 Passcode: 580253

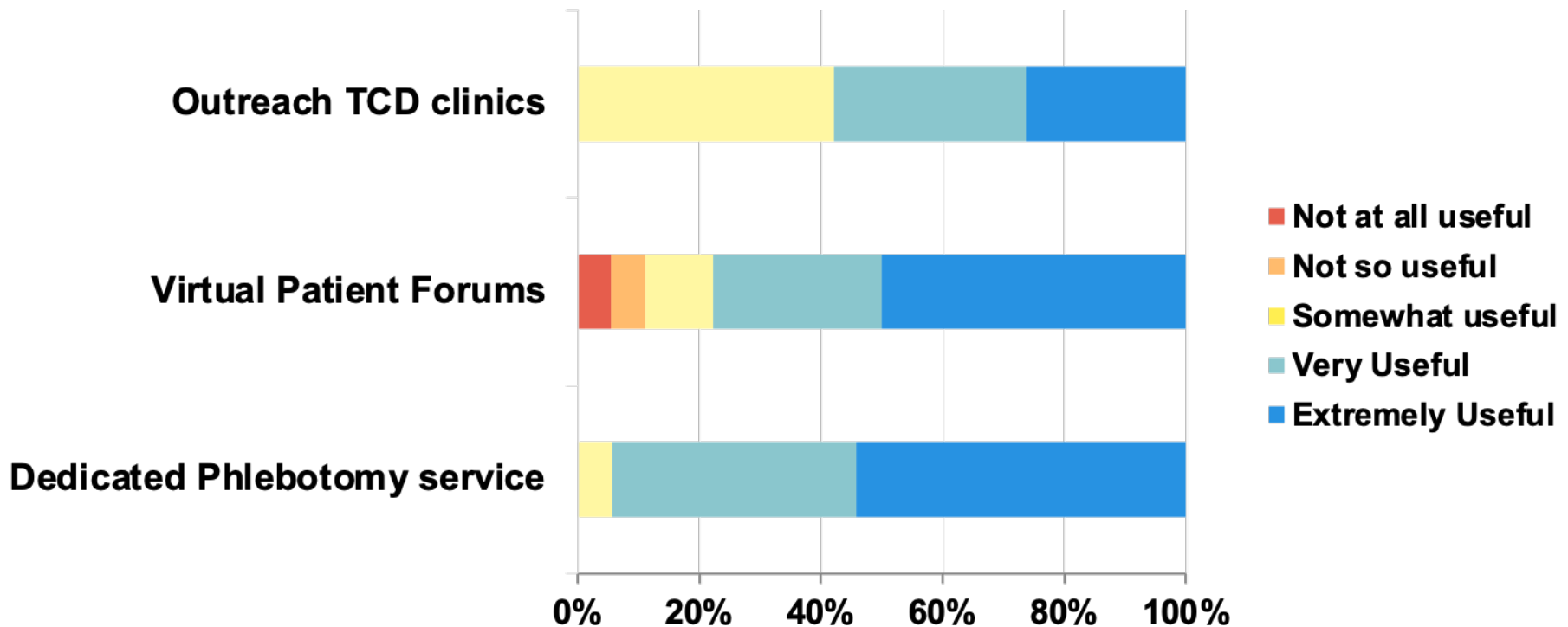
PARENTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S ONLINE FORUMS

- Hosted in partnership with our community sickle cell nursing team
- Online Zoom meetings with live discussions and Q&A sessions
- Provided information around paediatric sickle cell and COVID
- Guidance and reassurance on accessing our services during the pandemic
- Panel included paediatric sickle cell consultants, community & hospital sickle cell nurse specialists
- ~ 30 families attended in total

PATIENT SURVEY

- 27%** Response rate
- 85%** felt supported during the shielding period
- 92%** confirmed were contacted by our team during the shielding period
- 87%** stated that it was “easy” or “very easy” to access regular prescriptions during the shielding period
- 71%** would prefer to continue with a mixed model of F2F & virtual clinic appointments

“How useful to you were the following interventions during the pandemic?”



CONCLUSIONS

- During the COVID-19 pandemic we have maintained safe and uninterrupted paediatric sickle cell services
- Close collaboration between our SHT, community services & patients
- Reductions in hospital attendances, admissions and LOS
- Improvement of our clinical performance
 - emergency management of painful crisis
 - TCD monitoring timeframe standards
- **Outreach TCD clinics, online patient forums and telephone consultations** had a strong positive impact
 - To be extended into the next stages of this pandemic, and beyond...

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Our patients and their families
- Basildon Hospital Paediatric team
- Essex Sickle Cell & Thalassemia Service/ NELFT
- Royal London Hospital Paediatric Haematology Team
- Roald Dahl Marvellous Children's Charity