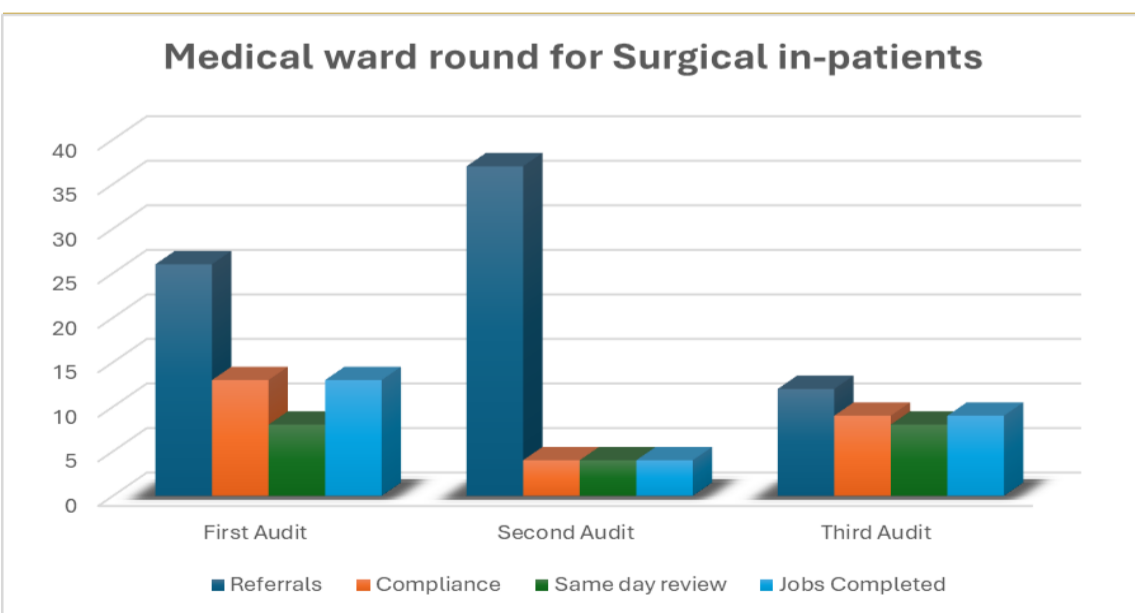
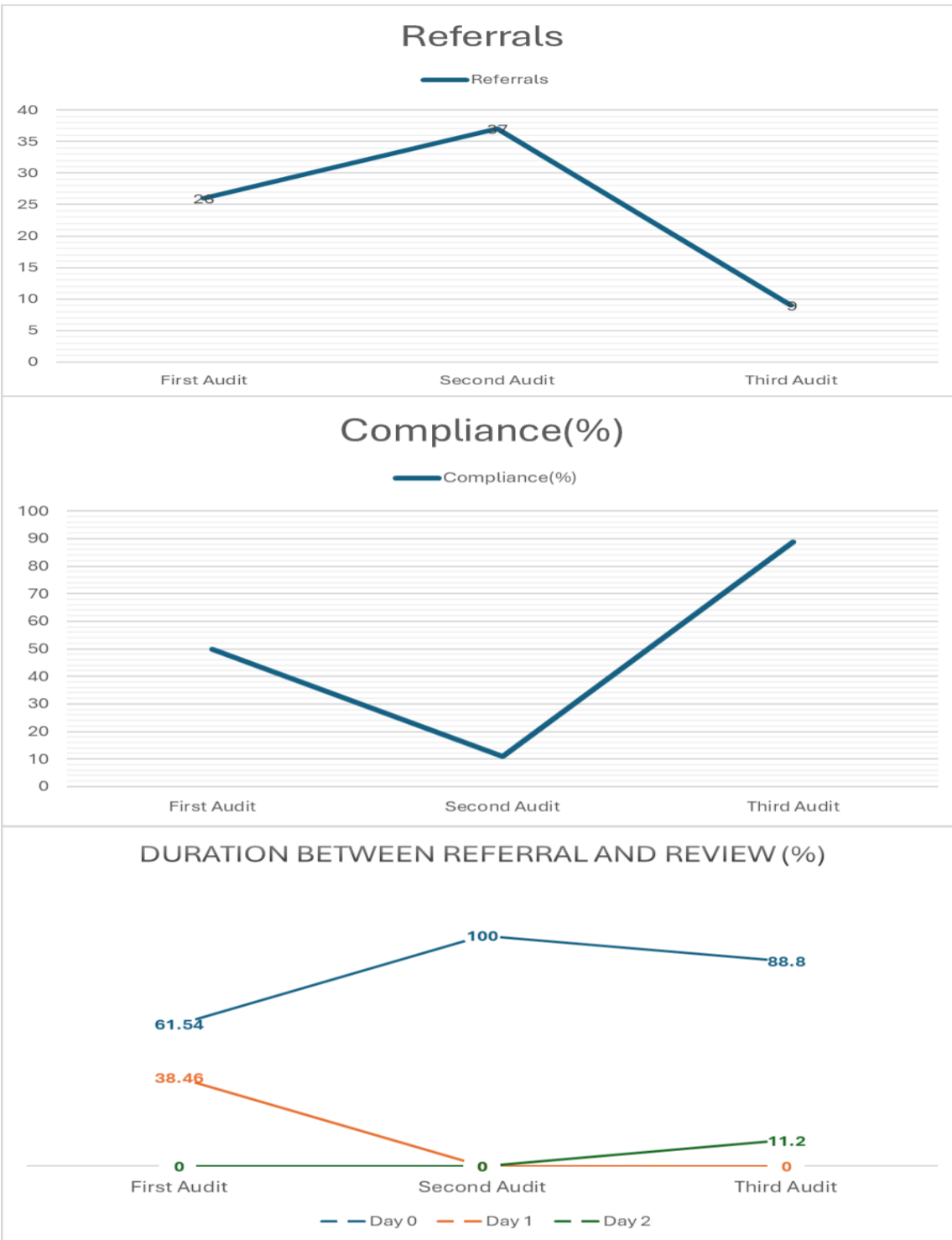


Consultant led medical ward round for Surgical in-patients; An audit series

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Abstract

Background:

Surgical patients suffering from pre-existing or new onset medical conditions require input from medical specialities for pre and post operative optimization. After discussion with Medical specialities, a new project enabling review of in-patients with medical conditions on Surgical floor by Medical Consultants was initiated in January 2024. After initiation, multiple cycles of audits were carried out to assess compliance. To date, three cycles of audits have been completed.

Aims:

The primary objective of this new project was to obtain an urgent medical review which will eventually lead to improving overall patient care, reducing duration of hospital stay and optimizing outcomes.

Methods:

Patients were placed on an electronic ward round list by using a QR code, which lead to a form that needed to be filled with relevant details by surgical ward doctors. Medical consultants had access to the list and visited the patients as per rota. Three audit cycles, each covering a duration of two week's time were carried out. Each audit collected data retrospectively from patient notes assessing how many referrals were medically reviewed, duration between referral and assessment and the recommended orders being carried out.

Results:

First audit cycle, with data from 8th-22nd January recorded 26 referrals with a compliance rate of 50% (n=13), with 61.54% (n=8) patients being reviewed on the same day. Second audit cycle covered the duration between 23rd January to 2nd February. Out of the 37 referrals made, only 10.81% (n=4) were reviewed, 100% (n=4) on the same day. Third audit cycle was carried out from 18th-31st March, with 12 referrals, 75% (n=9) compliance rate and 88.8% (n=8) being reviewed on same date. The percentage of job completion after medical ward round in all audits was found to be 100%.

Conclusion:

The concept behind medical consultant reviewing surgical patients when requested has it's merits but compliance has been sub-optimal. A reduced compliance rate in second audit was then followed by a reduction in total number of referrals demonstrating a cascading effect. A further audit cycle needs to be carried out to assess effects of implementation of recommendations after the third audit cycle.

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