

GP REFERRAL AUDIT JULY TO DECEMBER 2023

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BACKGROUND

The Colorectal suspected cancer referral was updated in September 2022, from which a number of amendments were made, including the referral criteria, requirement for blood test and FIT test (Faecal immunochemical test)

AIMS - WHAT WE WANTED TO ACHIEVE

- Ensure all GP practices were aware of the changes on the updated referral
- Ensure all GP practices were using the correct referral form. If they had no access to the updated form, we would send them a new copy
- Raise the awareness of requesting a FIT test for the patient
- Raising awareness of the importance to also review patient's blood test results as a holistic review for patient's symptoms

METHODS-WHAT WE DID

- Audit commenced in July 2023 and monthly data was recorded until Dec 2023.
- Monthly results letter emailed to GP



RESULTS - WHAT WE FOUND

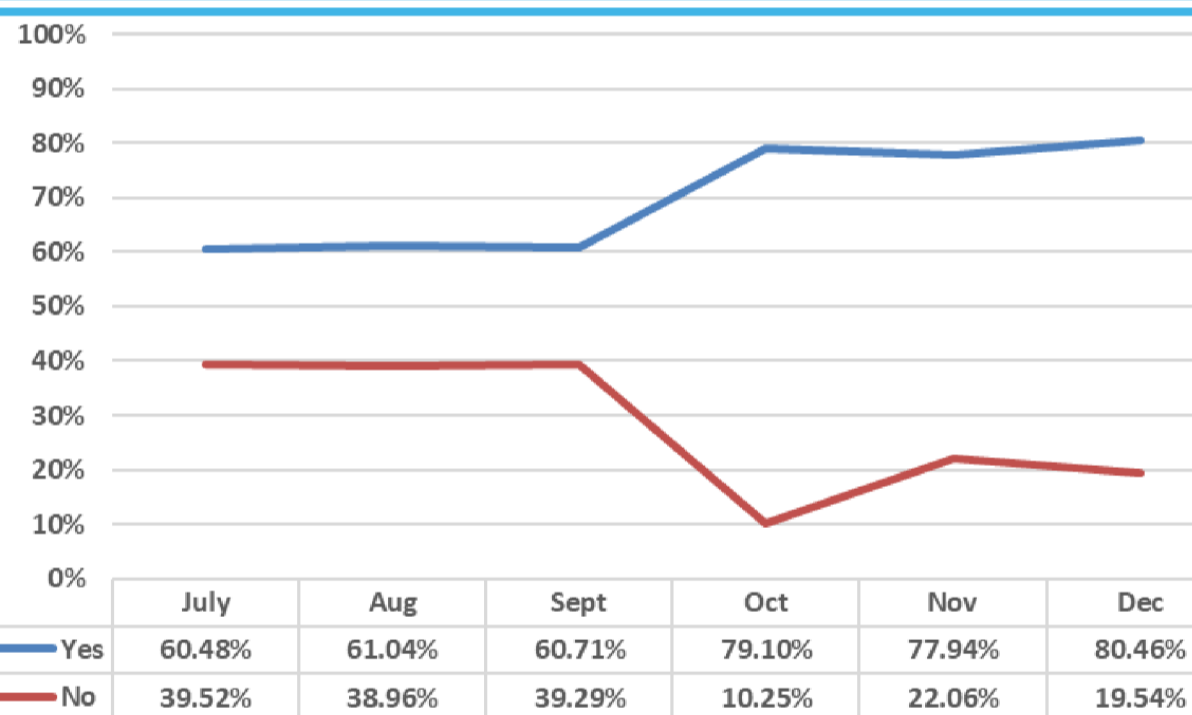
July-Dec:
total referrals
1392

- Correct Referral Form Used. This is important for ensuring proper documentation and processing of referrals
- Patient Meeting Referral Criteria. This is crucial as referrals should only be made when patients meet specific criteria for specialist care
- Availability of FIT Test Results at Time of Referral: FIT (fecal immunochemical test) is a screening test
- Availability of Bloods from Last 3 Months at Time of Referral. This is important for providing comprehensive patient information to specialists

Out of 337 referrals in July (2023), 133 used the incorrect form. Of these, 63 were from 5 GPs outside the Stockport area, and 32 from 5 Stockport based GPs. 10 GPs out of the 45 included, accounted for half of the referrals using an incorrect form.

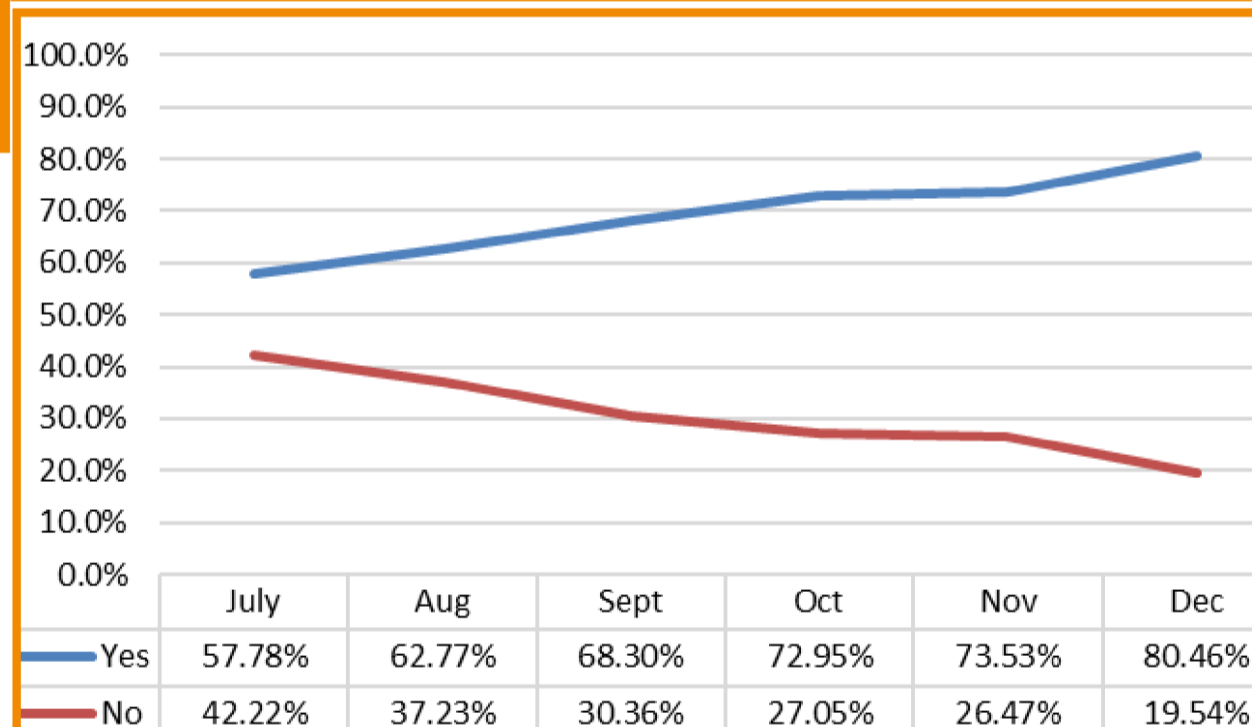
TREND COMPARISON GRAPHS

Was the correct GP referral form used?



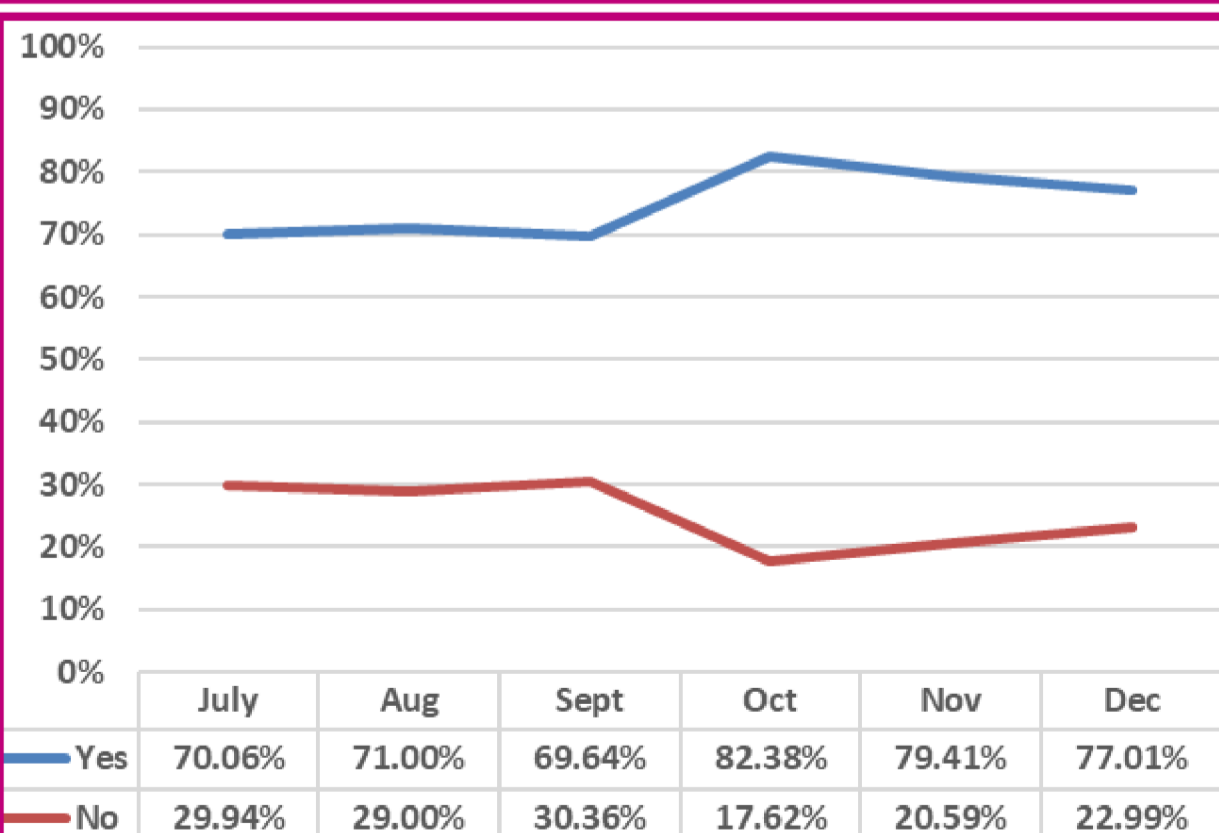
- Within the 6 months audit period, there was a 20% improvement with GP using the correct referral form.

Did the patient meet the referral criteria?



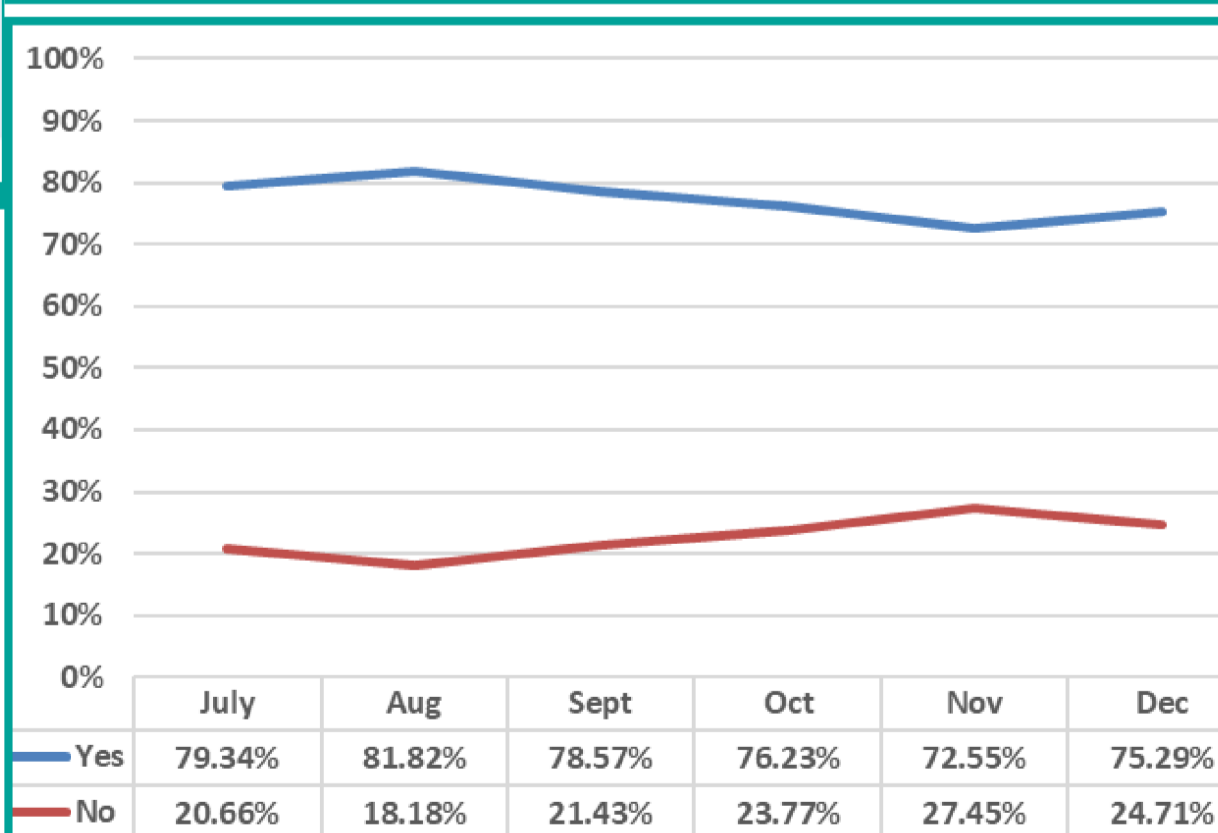
- 22.7% improvement of GP meeting the referring criteria

FIT test patient results available at time of referral?



- Up to 12% improvement of which patients had available FIT test results when referred in.

Up to date patient blood results available at time of referral?



- There was a slight decline in up to date blood results available during this 6 months audit period

CONCLUSION

- A number of GP practices made contact with our team for clarity and obtain an up to date referral form
- Reduction of delays for investigation due to waiting for blood results
- The availability of FIT test results helped us triage patients for most appropriate investigation.
- This audit help to support GP practices improve their referral processes, leading to better patient care

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DIFFERENCE
every day