

How UHCW improved the 28 day faster diagnosis standard from 47.4% to 75.4%

Look at what we can do, not what we can't. We made two significant changes

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NHS England introduced the 28 day faster diagnosis standard in 2021. This means that patients referred with a suspicion of cancer under the two week wait service should have a diagnosis of cancer or have cancer ruled out within 28 days. The current target for meeting this standard is 75%, rising to 80% in 2025/26. (NHS England)

The rationale for this standard is to reduce the time between referral and diagnosis of cancer. In turn it is hoped to reduce anxiety and to reduce unwarranted variation across England. We know the earlier stage a cancer is diagnosed along with a better PS, the better the outcomes (CRUK). We also know that the UK currently has some of the worst survival outcome in Europe. However, it is hoped with lung cancer screening being implemented Nationally,

this may change (RCLCF). Watch this space!

Implementing such a radical standard has forced a change in how the service is delivered. (The pandemic also helped in some ways).

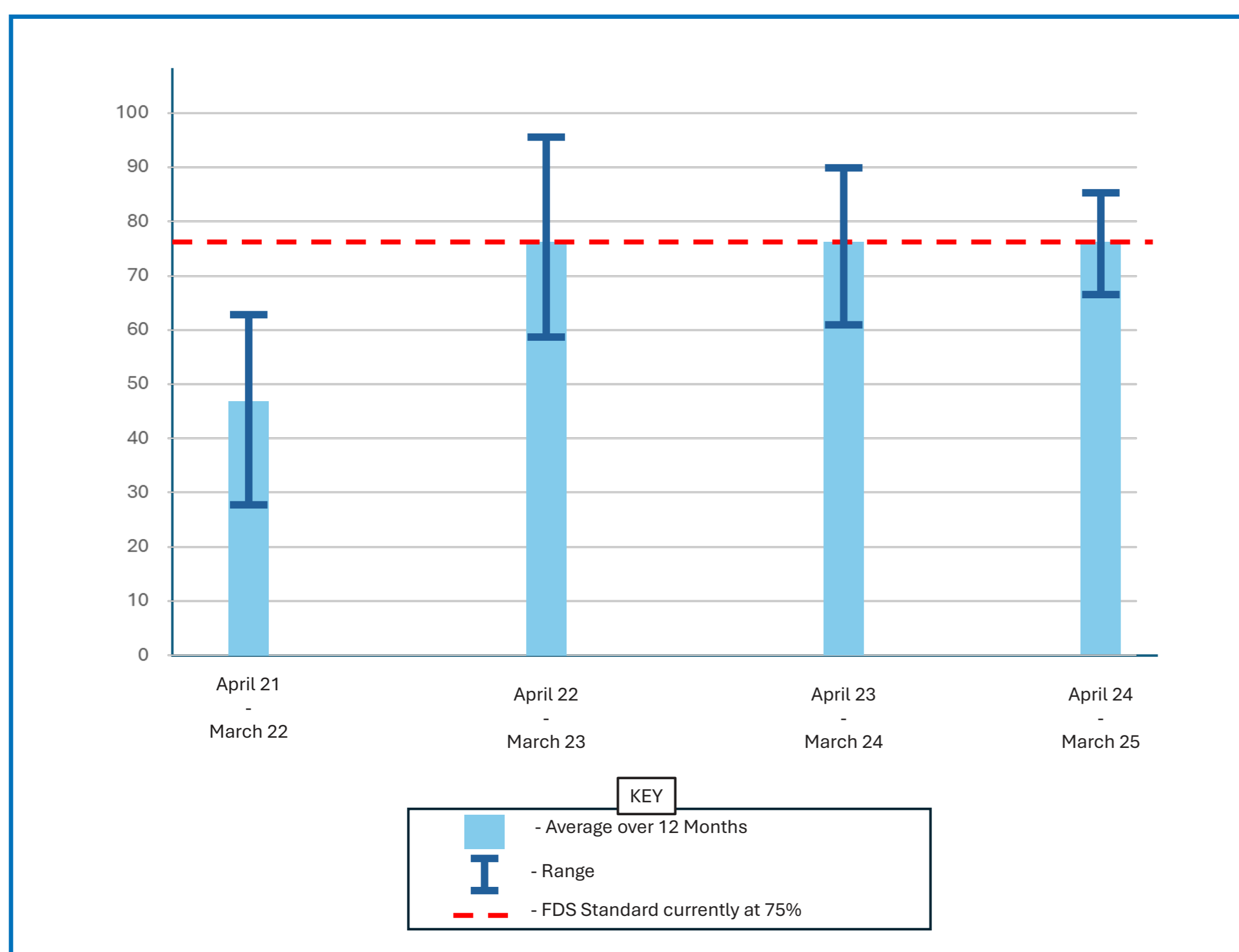
The lung cancer team at University Hospital have implemented a few key changes that have had a significant impact on the FDS standard.

A lung cancer advanced nurse practitioner (ANP) was employed in April 2022. The ANP triages all referrals each morning and requests all necessary investigations. Virtual clinics are often instigated immediately if further information is required. The ANP also delivers face to face and virtual clinics weekly and this can be changed

according to demand. The ANP, unlike Consultants, has flexibility in their work plan so clinics can be changed from morning to afternoon depending on demand and room availability.

The lung cancer team at UHCW also implemented an electronic 'advice and guidance' system between CNS and Consultant. The Consultant will review unreported imaging and decide on next step, (PET/EBUS/Bronch CT guided biopsy) and the CNS will call the patient to discuss as well as sending a clinic letter and necessary information, thus saving days waiting for face to face clinic slots.

Both initiatives have helped towards achieving the FDS.



Lung cancer team including navigator and team secretary

References

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/implementing-a-timed-lung-cancer-diagnostic-pathway>
<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health>
<https://roycastle.org/learn-about-lung>

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