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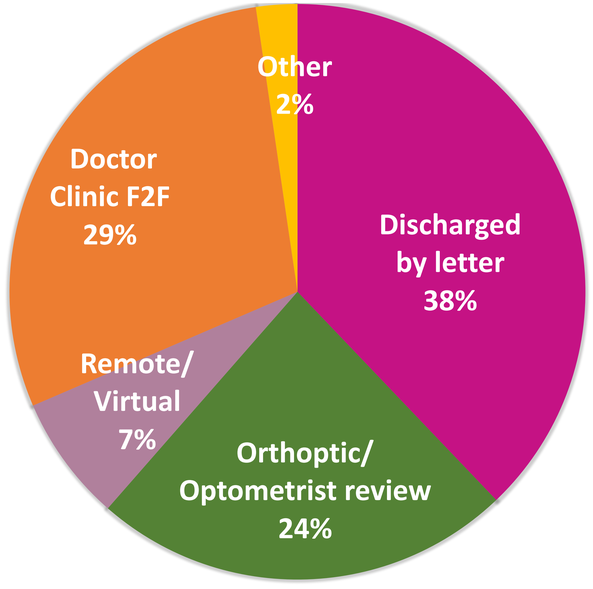
Safely Streamlining & Evolving the Paediatric Eyecare Service at UHB

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INTRODUCTION:

- The covid-19 pandemic meant that the NHS had to revamp its services to deal with the demand of its forever growing backlog.
- At University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB), with over 700 children requiring follow up, ophthalmology services were under immense pressure.
- The aim is to provide adequate and safe care whilst still considering the efficiency and cost effectiveness of limited NHS resources. So, with this in mind, a new strategy of triaging follow up patients awaiting a face to face doctor review was to employed, to get this back log under control.



Pie chart and table to show the reallocation of face to face appointments of children awaiting follow up in the paediatric clinics at University hospitals Birmingham,

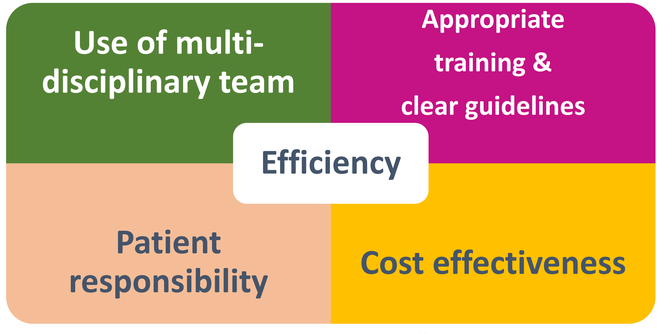
RESULTS:

Type	Discharged	Orthoptics/ Optometrist	Remote/ Virtual	Clinic FTF	Other	Total
Paediatric new	2	0	0	0	0	2
Paediatric follow up	276	173	52	214	18	733
% of total consultations	37.82	23.54	7.07	29.12	2.45	100

Less than 1/3rd of children needed a face to face review with a doctor.

38% of children were discharged with an informative letter explaining how they could return if their eye condition worsened.

Nearly 25% were seen by orthoptists/optometrists who could refer back to a doctor clinic should they have any concerns with their patients.



Our approach to Paediatric service efficiency.

CONCLUSION:

- Approximately one year's worth of consultant clinical appointments were made available during this process.
- Now, nearly 2 years later there have not been any known concerns/issues with patients in follow up in any of these outcome categories.
- This initiative has been instrumental in showing us alternative ways of patient monitoring and treating can be efficacious, pragmatic and safe.
- Going forward, triaging patients at the point of referral is an efficient and cost effective strategy to prioritise and reallocate children to the most appropriate practitioner.
- Senior clinician involvement in developing strategies, guidelines and direction is crucial in ensuring safety and efficiency in service provision.

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