

September – December 2025

## REASON WHY?

Accurate recording of paediatric weights is critical for safe prescribing, monitoring of growth and recognition of concerning weight trends (e.g. weight loss or gain). Improved documentation of weights on discharge summaries would enhance communication with other healthcare providers as well as amongst staff within our paediatric department between outpatient clinic appointments and inpatient stays.



I will improve the accuracy and completeness of weight documentation on Paediatric Discharge Summaries by 01/12/25 as evidenced by a three-cycle quality improvement project.

## PLAN

To determine whether paediatric patient weights are being consistently recorded in discharge summaries, and to improve compliance through targeted interventions. The proportion of paediatric discharge summaries that include a clearly documented, accurate and up to date weight (in kilograms) will be measured over a 3-month period, with a target of 100% compliance. This will be undertaken as a rolling audit.

### Standards:

- 100% of paediatric discharge summaries should include the patient's most recent weight, dated, and be expressed in kilograms.
- Weight should be recorded in a standardised section of the discharge summary.

### Methodology:

- Design: Rolling audit with repeated cycles.
  - Population: Paediatric inpatients discharged from Ward 19 Princess Royal Hospital, Telford over defined one-month periods.
  - Sample size: Minimum of 20-30 discharge summaries in each cycle.
  - Data collection: From discharge summaries on Clinical Portal.
- Whether weight is documented – yes/ no.  
Location of documentation – standardised section/ free text.

## DO

Cycle 1: Retrospective review of 20-30 discharge summaries from a defined one-month period to establish baseline compliance.

Intervention: Posters and educational reminders to raise awareness.

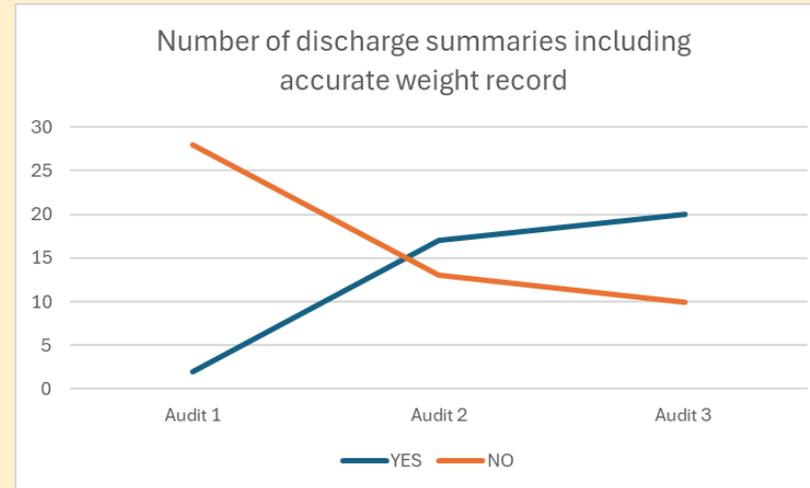
Cycle 2: Re-audit 20-30 discharge summaries prospectively one month after interventions to assess improvement.

Additional intervention: small cards with reminders on computers around the department.

Cycle 3: Re-audit 20-30 discharge summaries prospectively one month after interventions to assess improvement.

## STUDY

The two cycles resulted in a 60% increase in the number of discharge summaries including an accurate weight record.



## ACT

### Outcomes:

- Demonstrated improvement following poster campaign and educational interventions.
- Improved communication at discharge, ensuring safer prescribing and better monitoring of growth/ weight-related concerns in children.

This audit promoted a culture of rolling audit for sustained quality improvement.

Continuing to emphasise importance of certain aspects of discharge summary documentation will feed into a wider quality improvement project to develop a proforma for all staff to use when working in our department.