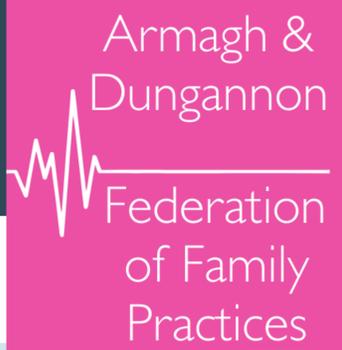


The Early Respiratory Diagnostics Project: Addressing a critical healthcare gap in the Armagh & Dungannon area

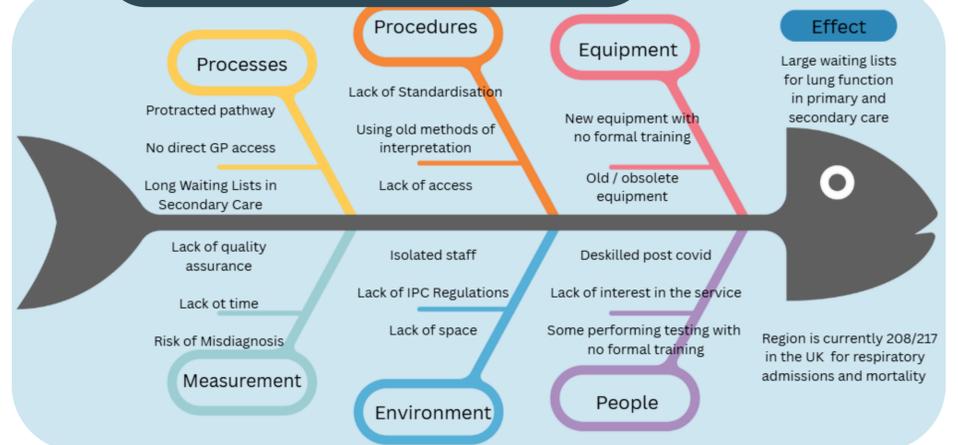
Smith, L; Traynor, M. Armagh & Dungannon GP Federation, Northern Ireland



Introduction

The Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon area is ranked 208/217 in the UK for respiratory admissions and mortality (1). Since COVID-19, access to quality assured spirometry in primary care has been limited, simultaneously there is also no direct GP access into secondary care, causing large waiting lists, delayed diagnosis and poor health outcomes.

The Problem



Methodology

A physiologist led mobile lung function lab that serves the rural population over 140,000 patients across 22 GP practices.

Two clinics per week offering twelve, one hour appointments.

Ndd Prolab portable lung function machine and Niox FeNO enabling Spirometry reversibility, DLCO and FeNO testing in primary care.

Exclusion Criteria: Individuals already under a respiratory consultant, individuals with contraindications.

Criteria for further investigations in secondary care - Individuals unknown to secondary care with :

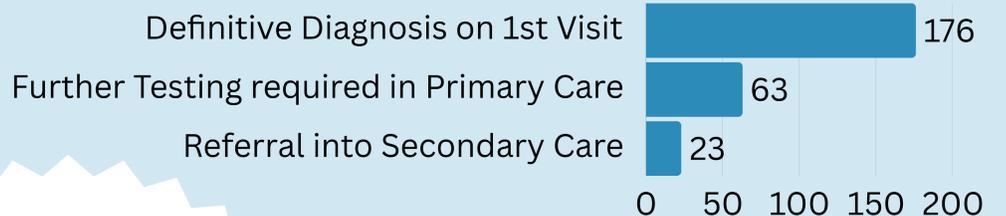
- New diagnosis of very severe COPD (FEV1 z-score <4.1 (30% predicted)
- Query of Restrictive lung disease- Gas exchange abnormality with normal/ suspected restrictive spirometry
- Query of a pulmonary micro circulation disorder - Gas exchange abnormality with normal/restrictive spirometry – unknown to secondary care.

Objective

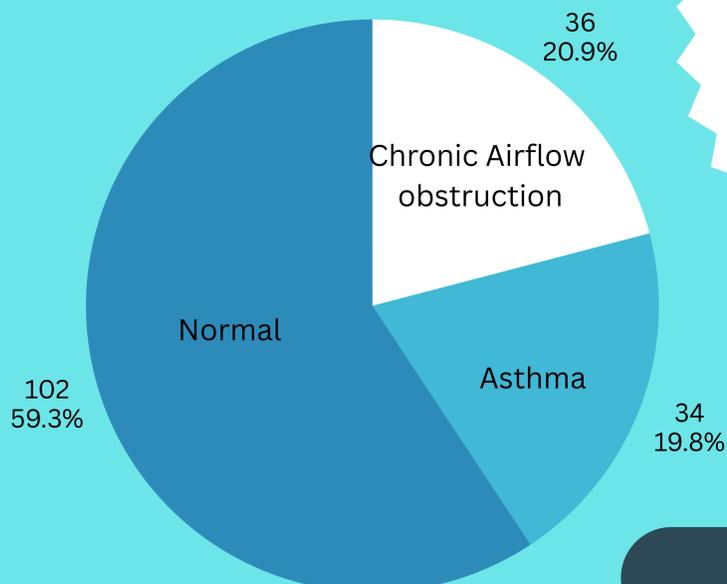
To reduce respiratory referrals to secondary care through timely access to quality assured advanced lung function testing in Primary Care

Results

Total Referrals: 497
262 Patients Seen @ month 10
Ave Wait: 10 weeks
Secondary Care: 91 Weeks

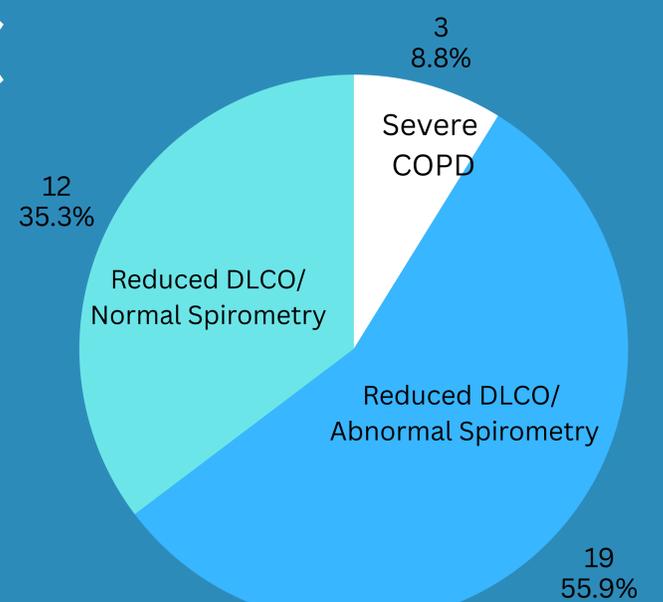


Definitive Diagnosis after first Visit



8.8%
of total no. of patients referred to secondary care

Referrals into Secondary Care



Conclusion

Improving access to quality assured advanced lung function testing at the earliest point leads to; earlier and more accurate diagnoses, more refined referral pathways, fast tracked treatment pathways, enhanced patient care and overall improved health outcomes while reducing strain on secondary care services.