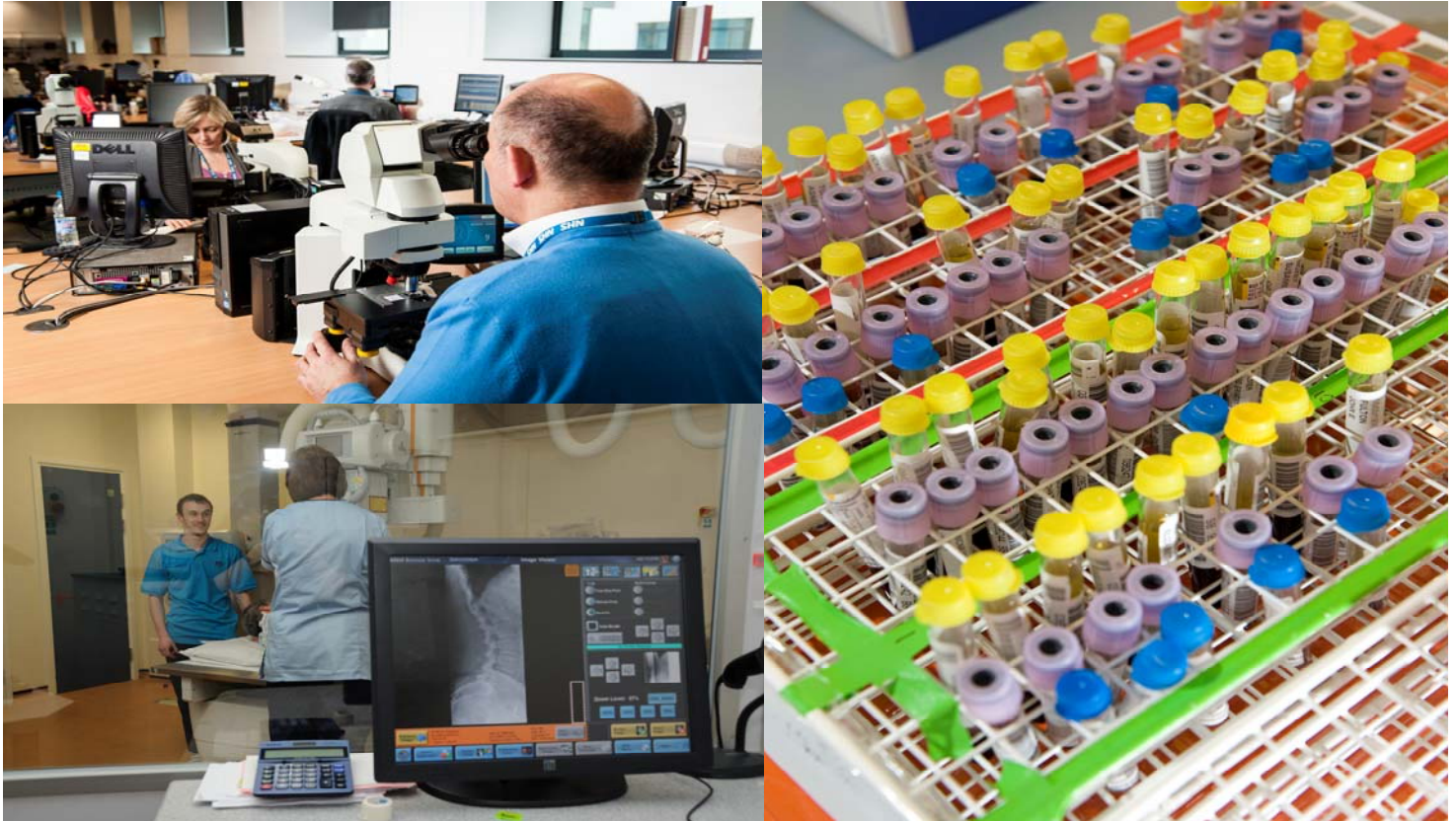


Newsletter

May 2016



Demand Optimisation

It has been recognised for many years that there is considerable variation in the use of diagnostic tests across the NHS. While some of this variation can be explained by clinical circumstances and demographic differences, much of the variation is suggestive of considerable levels of inappropriate requesting by clinicians as a result of over-requesting, under-requesting and unnecessary repeat testing. In addition, lack of availability of certain tests may also limit their optimal use.

As part of the Scottish Government's Healthcare Science National Delivery Plan a project group has been set up in order to make recommendations for national improvements in Demand Optimisation.

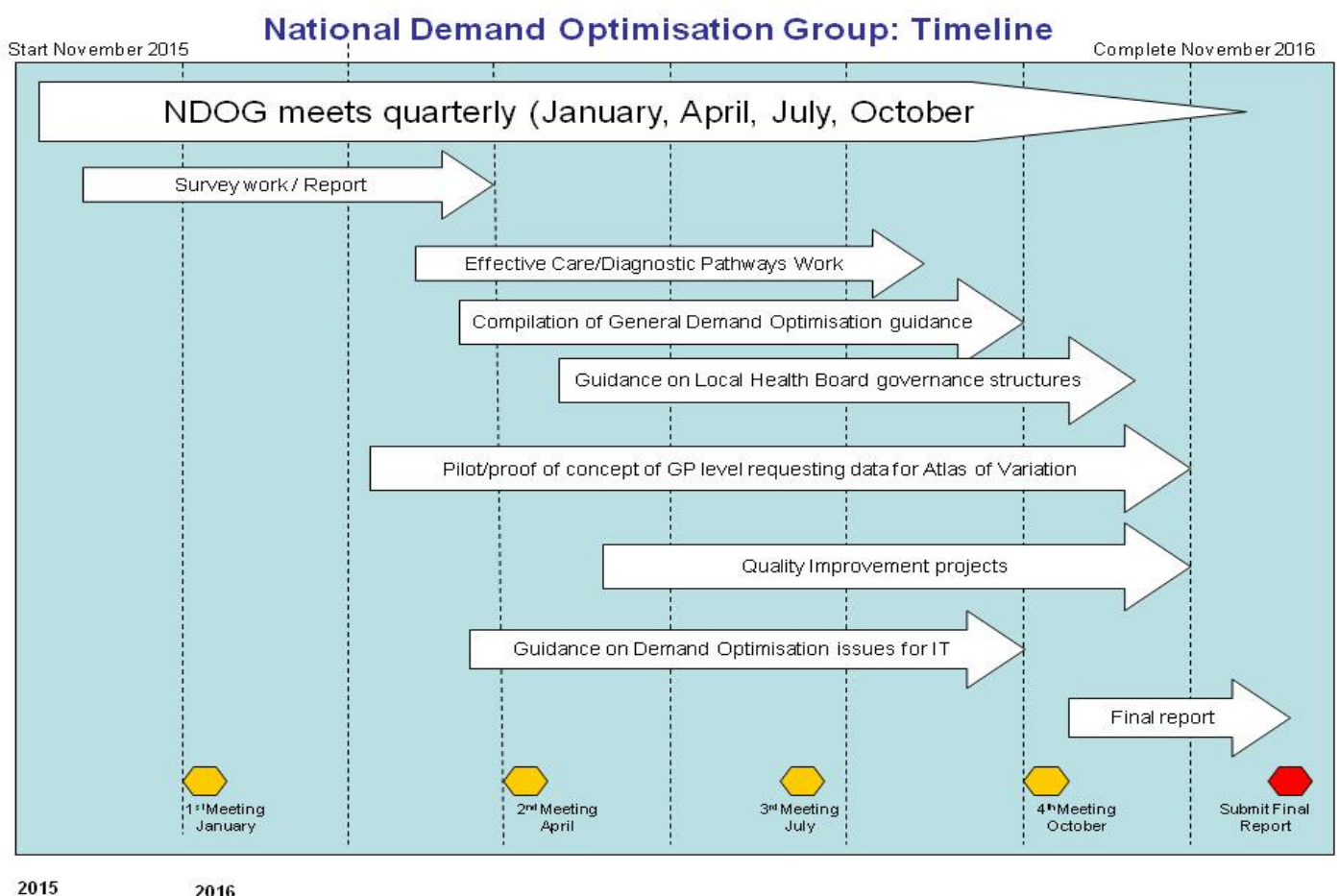
- The group has representation from Scottish Government, National Services Scotland, the National Managed Diagnostic Networks as well as representation from laboratories including Biochemistry, Microbiology/Virology, Pathology, Haematology, Clinical Immunology. There is also representation from Clinical Imaging, Genetics Consortia and Scottish National Blood Transfusion service.
- There are Demand Optimisation subgroups currently within the Clinical Imaging and Biochemistry networks.
- The group met for the first time in January and met again on 22nd April. Future meetings are planned for July and October.

Activity & aims

A survey was produced with the aim being to review what demand optimisation work is currently being carried out within health boards, there had been a reasonable number of full completions and the information from this was reported back to the National Group and was further reviewed at the April meeting.

Following on from this meeting it has been agreed that the group will work towards the following aims;

- **Compilation of General Demand Optimisation guidance – ie the top ten things that all boards should be doing**
- **Pilot/proof of concept of GP level requesting data for Atlas of Variation use and for Enhanced Educational Feedback project run through NHS Grampian +/- Tayside.**
- **Guidance on Local Health Board governance structures to support demand optimisation activity**
- **Guidance on Demand Optimisation issues for IT procurement and implementation**
- **Effective Care/Diagnostic Pathways – focusing on particular patient pathways that have high utilisation of diagnostic tests in order to define and promote consistent practice**
- **Define a working integrated structure for Demand Optimisation that utilises and links national oversight with local activity and implementation via the diagnostic networks, healthcare science leads and other stakeholder input.**



The group will work to complete and report on these aims for the project completion in November 2016.

Further details can be found on both the Scottish Government website;
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00476785.pdf>

And in the National Demand Optimisation Group website;
<http://www.mcns.scot.nhs.uk/dog/>