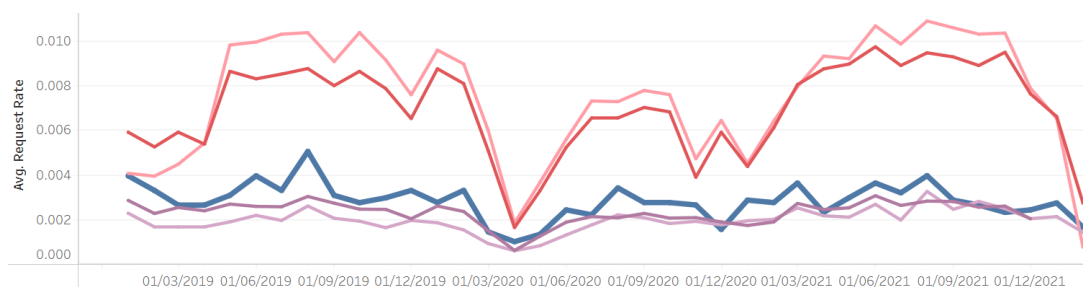


Primary Care Atlas of Variation for Diagnostic Laboratory Tests

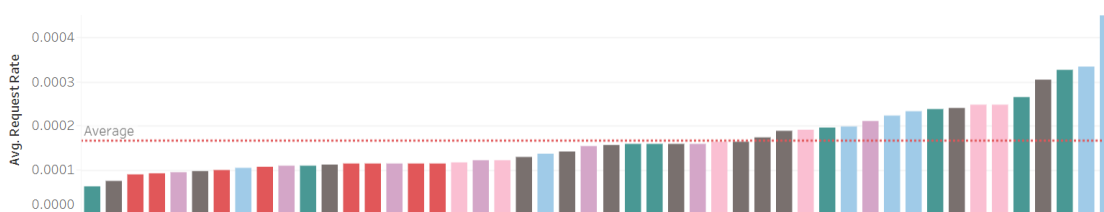
Demand Optimisation is defined as the process by which diagnostic test use is optimised to maximise appropriate testing, which in turn optimises clinical care and drives more efficient use of NHS resource.

There is considerable variation in the use of laboratory diagnostic tests across primary care. Some of this variation can be attributed to clinical and demographic differences. However, some variation can be attributable to differences in practice processes and pathways or individual requester preferences.

The **National Demand Optimisation Group** has developed an Atlas of Variation to help tackle unwarranted variation.



The Atlas of Variation contains monthly data on NHS board primary care requesting totals for a specific suite of blood science tests from cancer, cardiac, diabetes and other general pathways. The Atlas consists of three separate dashboards that allow GP practices to compare their request rates with their cluster, health board, peer group and national rates.



An education toolkit provides advice for selected tests on: background, when to test, when not to test and when to repeat a test.

A Quality Improvement (QI) toolkit provides a range of useful resources to help with the scoping and delivery of quality improvement projects.

A User Guide has also been developed to help you navigate the Atlas. You can find this [here](#).

Here is a link to the Atlas – [Phase5 Primary Care Dashboard | Tableau Public](#)

Should you have any questions, please get in touch with the team via nss.nationaldemand@nhs.scot