

# Emergency bag checks in ICU: sharing good practice to improve patient safety

Dr Robyn Beaty<sup>1</sup> Dr Laura Chase<sup>2</sup> Dr Sian Moxham<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Foundation Doctor, Severn Deanery <sup>2</sup>ICU Registrar, Great Western Hospital Swindon <sup>3</sup>ICU Consultant, Great Western Hospital Swindon



## Background

Grab bags containing emergency drugs and equipment are required in ICU for use in arrest or trauma situations around the hospital. Resuscitation Council UK guidelines state that 'a reliable system of equipment checks and replacement must be in place and the frequency of the checks should be determined locally'<sup>1</sup>. Great Western Hospital ICU guidelines state these should be checked daily. Due to the increased pressure of the Covid-19 pandemic, temporary ICUs were set up and staff unfamiliar with ICU equipment were redeployed. We noticed that checks were not being done on a regular basis. This led to incidents in emergency situations where the correct equipment was not available. We required a robust system that was transferable across different settings to allow staff to easily check kit.



## Aim

To improve the number of days per week bag checks are carried out to 80%.



## Method

A retrospective audit on how often drug and bag checks had been carried out was completed. We then designed QR codes that linked to a kit list allowing for easy recognition of required kit as well as recording of checks. This system had already been successfully introduced at another ICU in our region<sup>2</sup>. The QR codes were displayed at all locations of the emergency kit and staff were informed via email, WhatsApp and at handovers of the new system. A reminder was added to the doctors daily jobs list and a bag checks champion was nominated after August change over to try to maintain the change.



## Results

Fridge drug bags checks that were recorded in February showed drugs were only checked 2 – 4 days a week (28%-57%). The large bags were only recorded as checked on 1 -2 days a week (14%-28%).

After intervention 1 (QR code and email sent), this improved to 4-5 days a week for all bag checks (57%-71%).

After intervention 2 (morning handover reminders), the results showed all bags being checked between 3-6 days a week (42%-85%).

After intervention 3 (doctors job list), all bag checks were being carried out 5-7 days a week (71%-100%).

There have been no incidents of kit being unavailable since the beginning of QR code use.

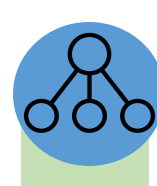


## Key messages

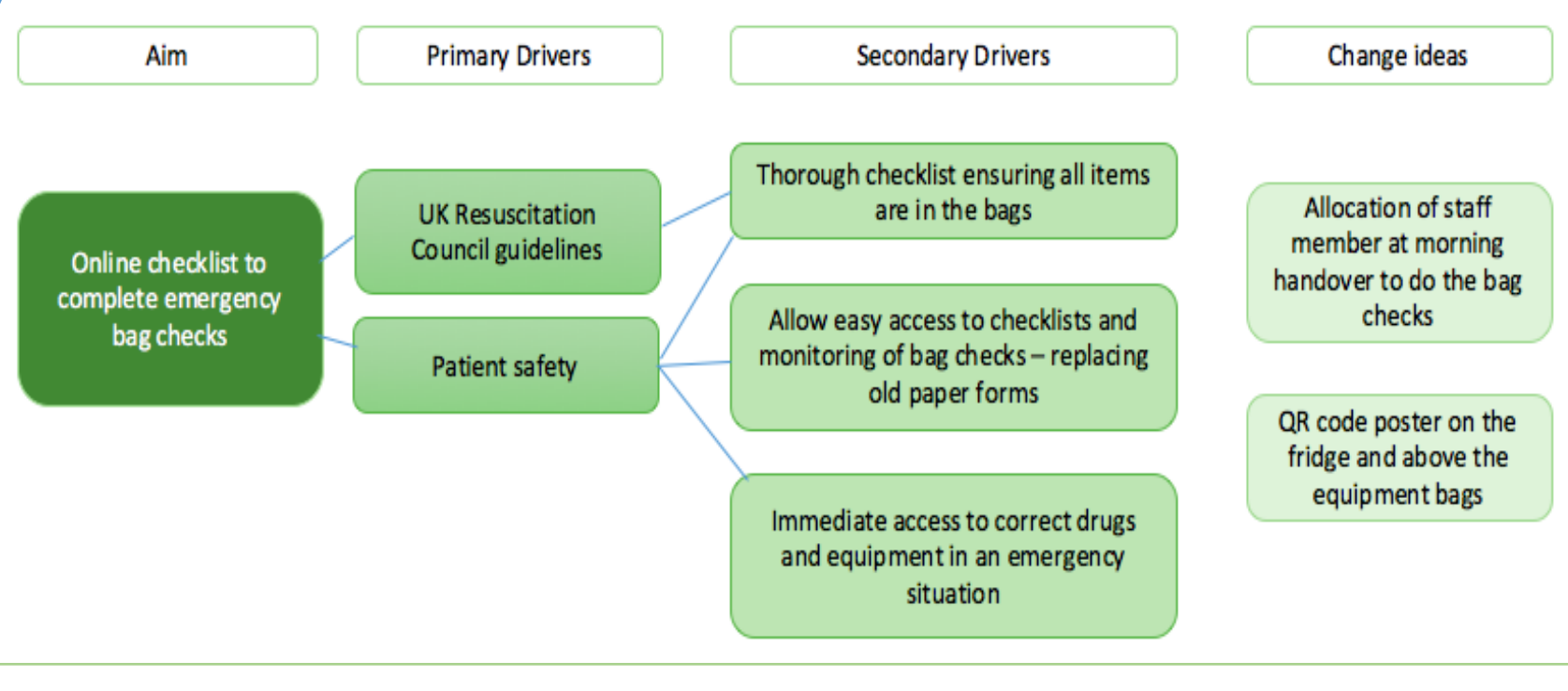
- Sharing good practice from other ICUs in our region via rotating trainees has allowed us to put in place a robust system for checking emergency equipment.
- This system is easy to expand should demand require temporary ICUs again .
- Makes identification of kit easy as pictures can be added for staff who may be unfamiliar.
- Data is collected centrally allowing for easy record keeping.
- Going forward we must ensure that the culture of using this system is passed on to each group of trainees.

## References

1. Resuscitation Council UK, Quality Standards: Acute care equipment and drug lists, Nov 2013 Last updated May 2020.
2. Dr Ben Savage, Intensive Care Unit, North Bristol NHS Trust



## Driver Diagram



## Example checklists

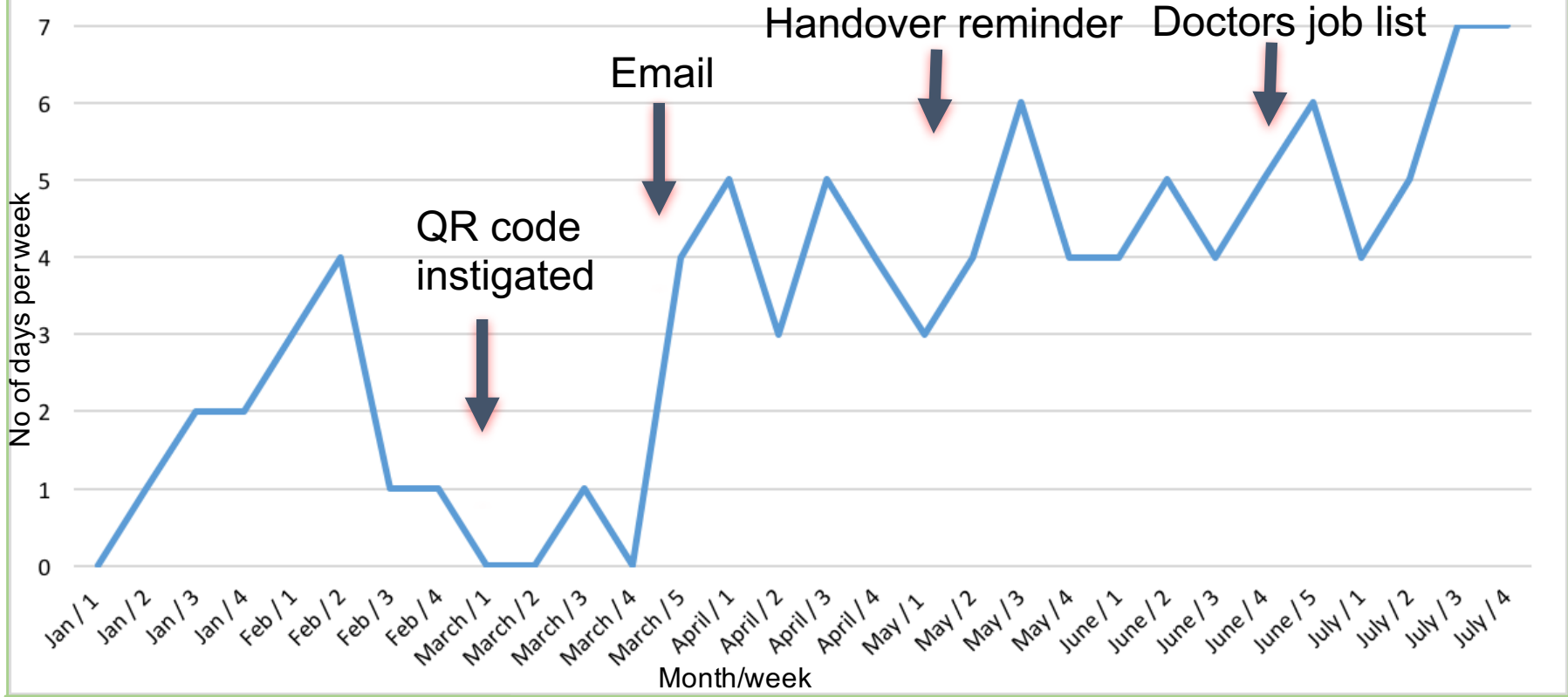


Fridge drug bag checklist



Large bag checklist

Fridge bags daily checks



Large bags daily checks

