

Flu Test & Treat Community Pathway

Winter pressures faced by the NHS are often exacerbated by cases of seasonal influenza. A collaborative working agreement between Innovation Agency, Roche Products Ltd. and Roche Diagnostics Ltd. aimed to demonstrate through a pilot whether using rapid diagnostics for Flu A/B alongside digital reporting in the community could improve patient outcomes, reduce the need for hospitalisations and therefore reduce the burden on secondary care, whilst identifying any further system benefits.

What happened?

- Between December 2022 and March 2023, 9 GP practices¹ in Yorkshire and the North West took part in a pilot for a new flu patient community pathway using a point of care test
- A target population of around 43,000 clinically at-risk patients were encouraged to visit their GP to take a flu test upon developing flu symptoms
- Based on national averages for flu surveillance,² an estimated 17 hospitalisations, 4 deaths, and 1 ICU admission were avoided due to the pilot

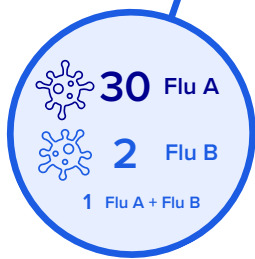
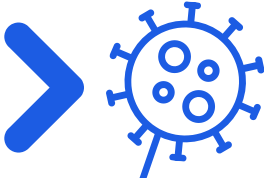
250

Tested for flu



33

Positive for flu



23

Prescribed antivirals



6

Prescribed antibiotics

Pilot pathway data

- Displayed to the left and below are the key results of the pilot flu pathway.



1 Hospitalisation



0 ICU admissions



0 Deaths

Estimated impact



17 Hospitalisations avoided*

= £37k³
Hospitalisation costs prevented**

+



1 ICU admission avoided

= £1k⁴
ICU costs prevented

+



4 Deaths avoided

*Figures rounded to the nearest whole number
**Monetary values rounded to the nearest £1,000

1. Priory Medical Group comprises 8 practices but is has one code in the NHS Digital Organisational Data Service (ODS).

2. UK Health Security Agency. (2023, April 6). National flu and COVID-19 surveillance data report: 6 April 2023 (week 14). GOV.UK.

3. Optimism bias correction applied. Flu hospitalisation cost from: NHS Improvement and NHS England. (2021). 2020/21 National Tariff Payment System: National prices and prices for blended payments.

4. Optimism bias correction applied. ICU admission cost from: NHS England. (2021). National Schedule of NHS Costs 2019/20.