

# Improving HIV testing for patients presenting with indicator conditions to acute medicine in Gateshead, UK

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## BACKGROUND

- People who are newly diagnosed with an HIV indicator condition (IC) should be offered an HIV test [1]

## AIMS

- To improve HIV testing for patients presenting with ICs to acute medicine at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Gateshead

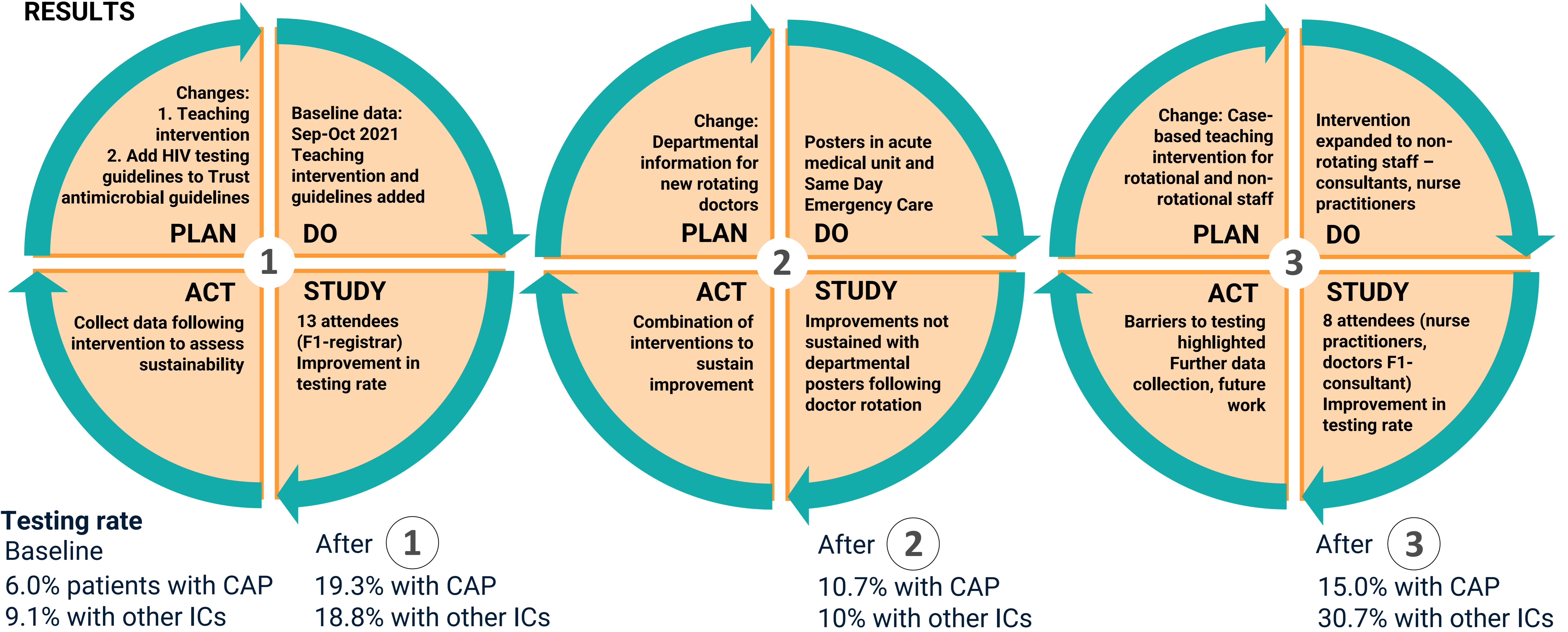
## METHODS

- ICs were identified from clinical coding data
- HIV tests were collected from laboratory data
- Three Plan, Do, Study, Act cycles
- Adults aged 18-80 admitted via acute medicine at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead with a new diagnosis of an IC
- Data collection Sep 2021–Jun 2022

## PARTICIPANTS

- 666 Community acquired pneumonia (CAP)
- 89 Other ICs
- Grouped for analysis:
  - Including candidiasis, varicella zoster, mononucleosis, lung cancer, lymphoma

## RESULTS



### DOES YOUR PATIENT NEED AN HIV TEST?

Do they have one of the following indicator conditions? If so, consider testing for HIV.

#### INFECTIONS

- Sexually transmitted infection
- Herpes zoster
- Hepatitis A, B or C (acute or chronic)
- Mononucleosis-like illness
- Unexplained oral candidiasis/Candidaemia
- Community-acquired pneumonia in under 65s
- Visceral leishmaniasis
- Invasive pneumococcal disease
- Oral hairy leukoplakia

#### NEUROLOGY

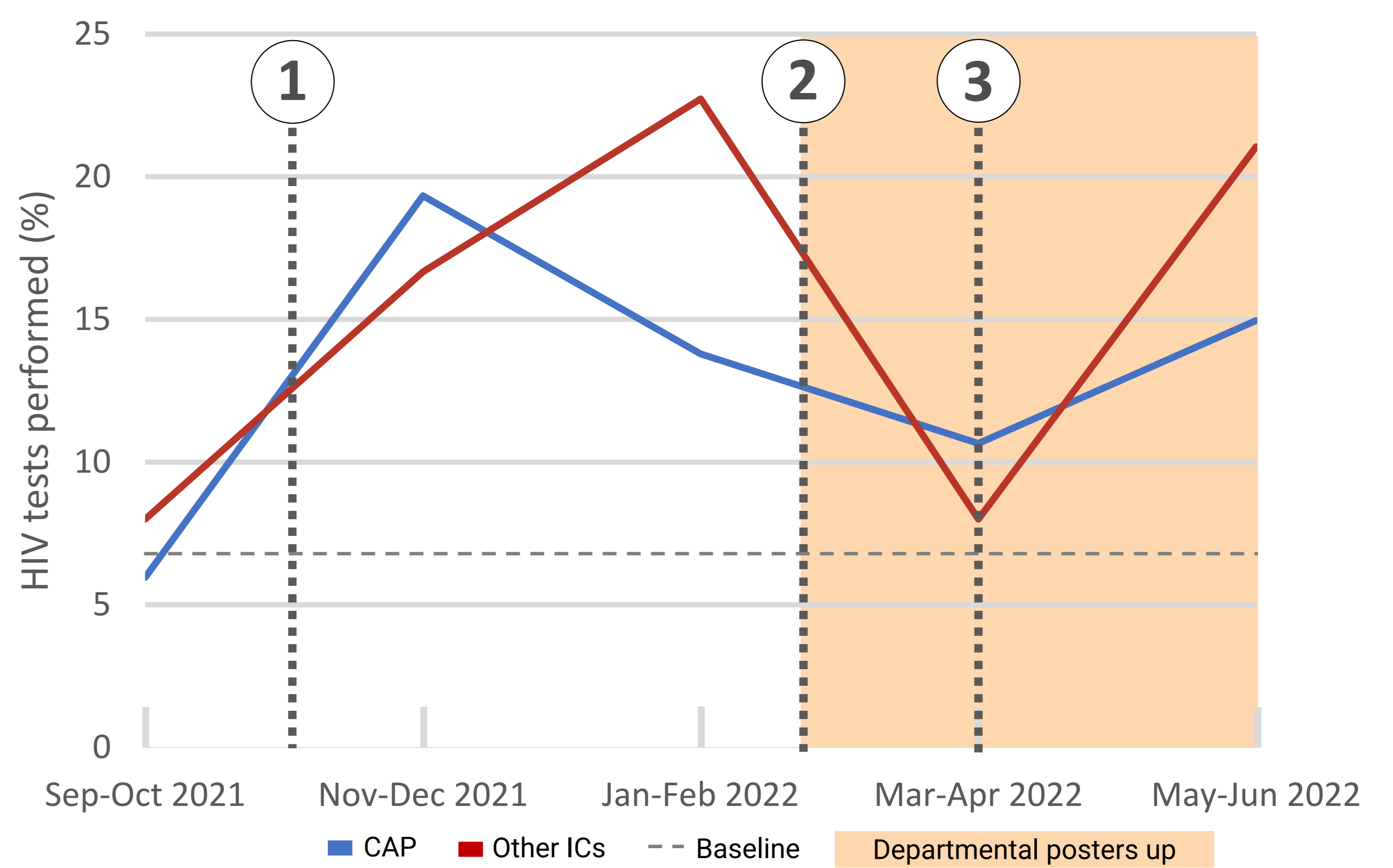
- Multiple-sclerosis-like disease
- Subcortical dementia
- Guillain-Barre syndrome
- Mononeuritis
- Peripheral neuropathy

#### CANCER

- Malignant lymphoma
- Anal cancer/dysplasia
- Cervical dysplasia
- Primary lung cancer

#### UNEXPLAINED SYMPTOMS

- Unexplained weight loss
- Unexplained leukocytopenia / thrombocytopenia lasting >4 weeks
- Unexplained lymphadenopathy
- Unexplained chronic diarrhoea
- Unexplained chronic renal impairment
- Unexplained fever



## LESSONS LEARNED

- Teaching interventions increased testing rates and identified barriers to testing, but improvements to testing were lost when doctors rotated out of the department
- Information posters and Trust antimicrobial guidelines provided a reference but did not prevent a decline in testing when doctors rotated

## FURTHER WORK

- Further data collection and teaching sessions for rotational and non-rotational staff
- More consistent improvement may be seen with interventions which prompt testing for HIV and persist across rotating junior doctors
- This could include incorporating HIV testing in an electronic record admission bundle [2]

### Blood Sciences

#### Blood Tests

- FBC
- CRP
- U&E
- Liver Profile
- Bone Profile
- Blood Culture
- HIV Screen

## References

1. BHIVA/BASHH/BIA Adult HIV Testing Guidelines 2020
2. McGuinness R, Keevil H, Sharif A, et al Improving the percentage of HIV tests offered to patients admitted to an acute hospital trust with community-acquired pneumonia *BMJ Open Quality* 2020;9:e001102. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-001102