

Green Plan in Action

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Why?

NHS Green Plan is our commitment to reduce our impact on the environment, deliver lower carbon, more sustainable care and meet the NHS net zero carbon emissions target by 2040.

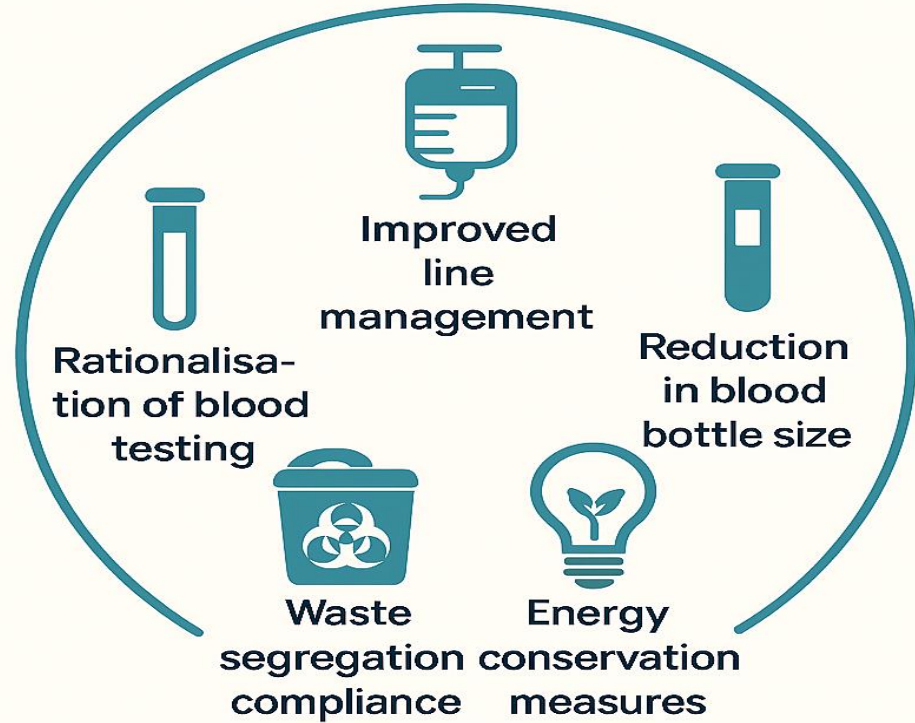
The climate crisis is a health emergency that negatively impacts mental health and wellbeing.

NHS Green Plan (2020)

- Critical Care practice is dynamic and continually adapting as new evidence, technologies, and service pressures shape how care is delivered.
- Innovations are routinely assessed and integrated with a focus on sustainability, optimising nursing time, and cost efficiency.
- These priorities guide the evaluation, adoption, and embedding of new ways of working to ensure care remains safe, effective, and future-focused.



Key initiatives include:



Glucose Lab Testing Requests Discontinued

May 2023-June 2024

We sent 8000 blood samples to be tested for glucose blood levels

Which equates to:

56 pints of
blood

6 people's
circulating volume

More blood than
any person can
donate in a
lifetime

Each Glucose bottle costs 7p = a cost saving of £560

Lab processing per sample 0.03p = £240

Saving 8000 bottles of plastic and £800



Removal of Cannulation Packs

COST REVIEW OF TERMINATION OF CANNULATION PACKS

- **Cannulation Packs**
- £2.70
- 2035 PACKS SUPPLIED
2024/2025
- TOTAL COST £4,577.80

- **Individual Cannulation
Items**
- £1.39
- 2035 individual items
- Total cost £2,665.85

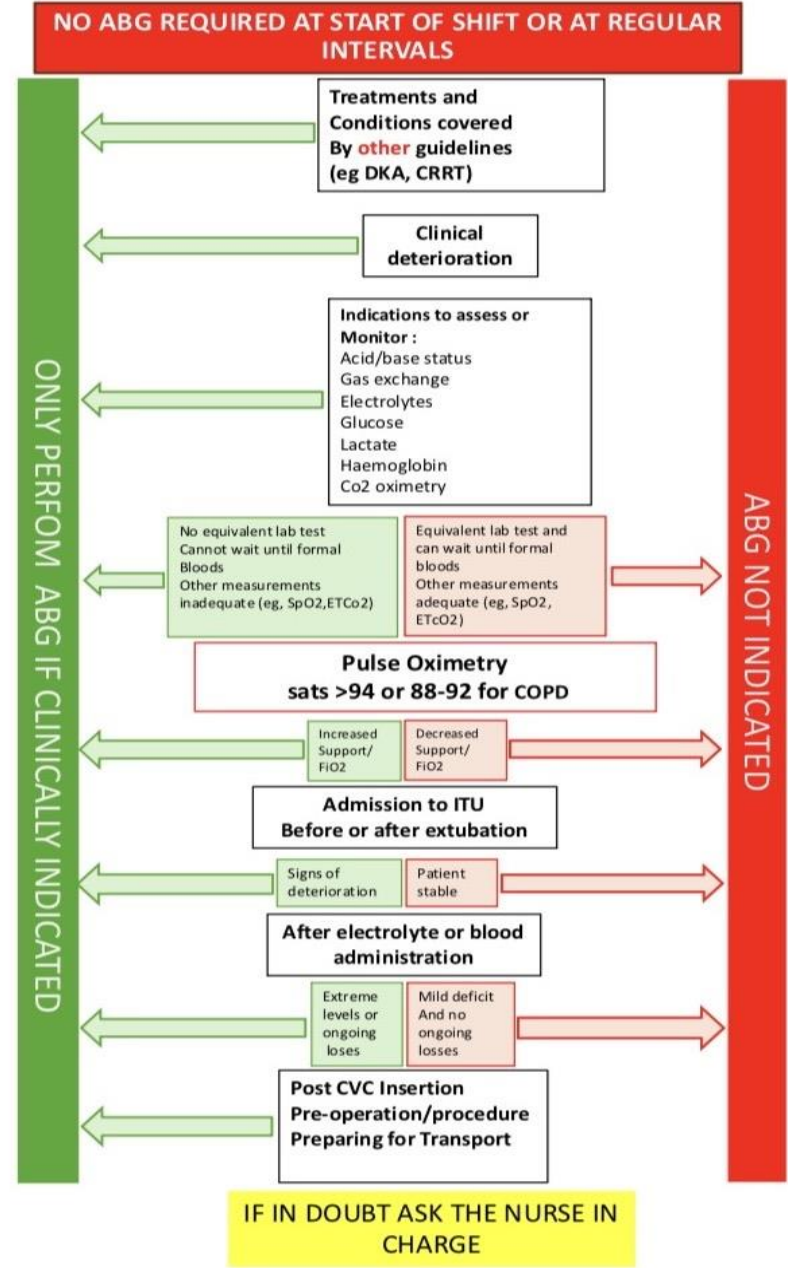


TOTAL
SAVING
£1,911.95



To ABG Or Not to ABG

- Guideline for **ABG Testing** was introduced.
- **Colour-coded, laminated guidelines** placed in every ICU bed space.
- **75% of nursing staff** received **face-to-face teaching**.



To ABG or Not to ABG

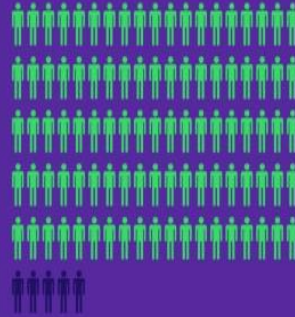
58% Reduction

In total number
arterial blood
gases taken
over the test
periods



95%

Reduction in ABGs
taken for invalid
reasons e.g.
'change of shift'



48%

Fewer ABGs per
patient



£383.90

Money saved from
reduction in
unnecessary ABG
cost alone



**1.396
Litres**

Of Blood saved from
waste, or 1/3 of a
circulating volume



17kg

Of CO2 saved

The equivalent
of driving 112km
in a car



29 hours

Of Nursing time saved
equivalent to
2.4 total shifts

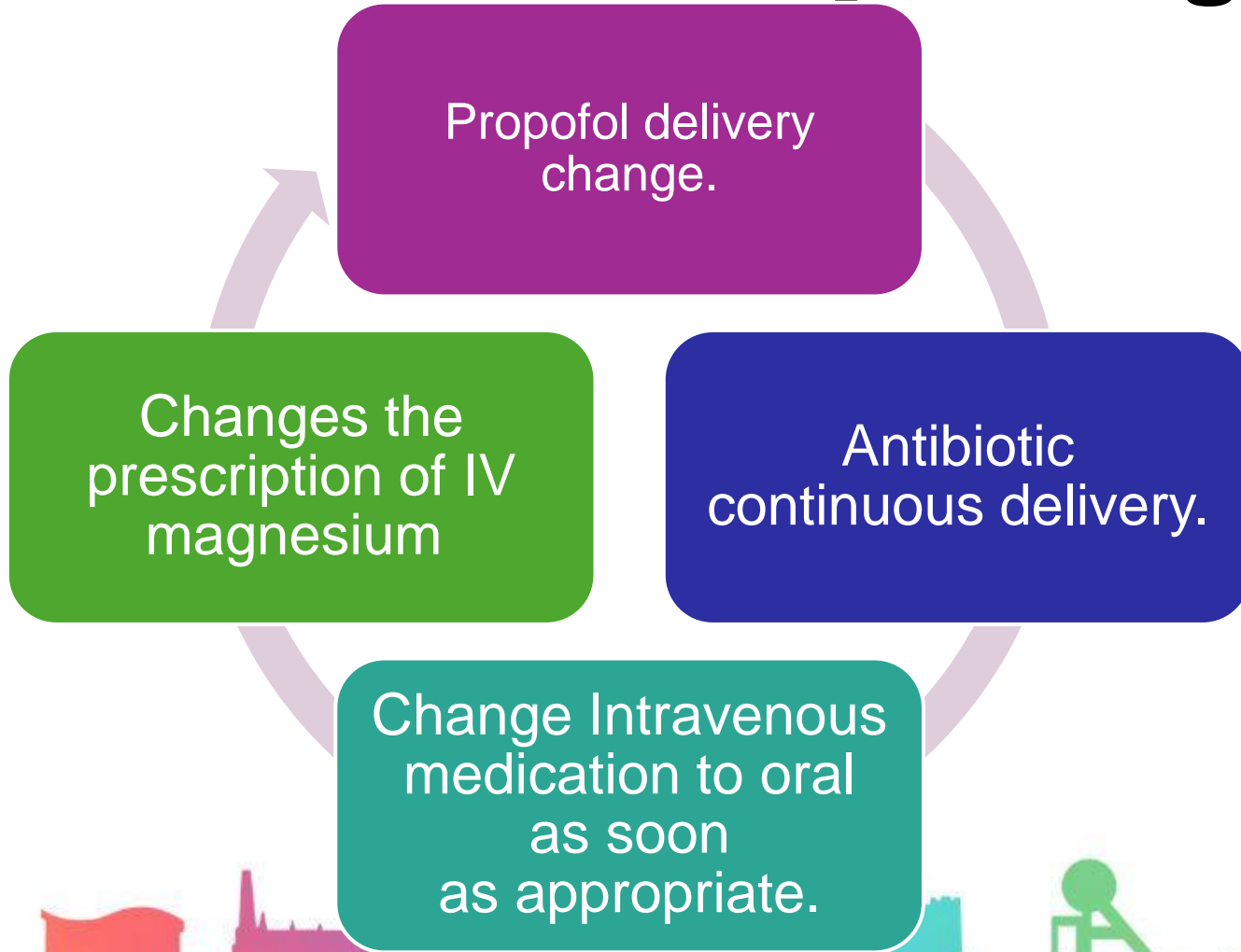


To ABG or Not to ABG

- Recent published Quality Improvement report published in BACCN Feb 2026
- Reducing inappropriate Arterial Blood Gas Testing in Critical Care.
- <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/nicc.70378>



Medication delivery changes



PROPOFOL DELIVERY METHOD

- Propofol 10mls/hr for 24 hours;
an average of 6 patients

50ml Bottles
Drawn up in
syringes

100ml
Bottles hung

Cost
saving
£3858

Sustainability
10,950 50ml syringes
10,950 Drawing up
needles

Nursing
time
saved
125hrs
per year



Recycling

- **Nutrison NG feed containers and packaging along with Fortisip bottles**
- **All bottles that have saline or glucose with no additives including 10ml ampoules**
- **Cardboard boxes/sterile packaging into recycling bins**
- **Recycling glass bin in the sluice.**
- **A box for out-of-date equipment has been placed in the storeroom that is collected and sent to Ukraine at their request.**



Communicating the Innovations

- Sustainability Team
- Newsletters
- Noticeboard
- Weekly communication
- Tea trolley teaching
- PDN teaching
- Presenting to sustainability network/ wider symposiums.
- Critical care sustainability page on the trust intranet.
- Sustainability showcase within the trust.
- QR Code for suggestions from the team.



Awards & Recognition

- Bronze National award at the Award for Excellence in Waste Management for sustainable practice
- Presentation on “ABG Change in Practice” won at both WM GAIN and FICM trainee conferences
- Published QiP



Future Plans

Post-extubation practice review (in progress)

Extubating patients onto Nasal cannula rather than humidified oxygen.

Review of gloves in practice – audit being currently undertaken

VTE review: TED stockings vs intermittent pneumatic compression

Bladder washout

Noradrenaline delivery

.



Remember:

SMALL changes lead to **BIG** impacts

Think:



CODEGREEN
Sustainability and Energy Management



Any Question?

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