

Length of Stay for Elective Arthroplasty

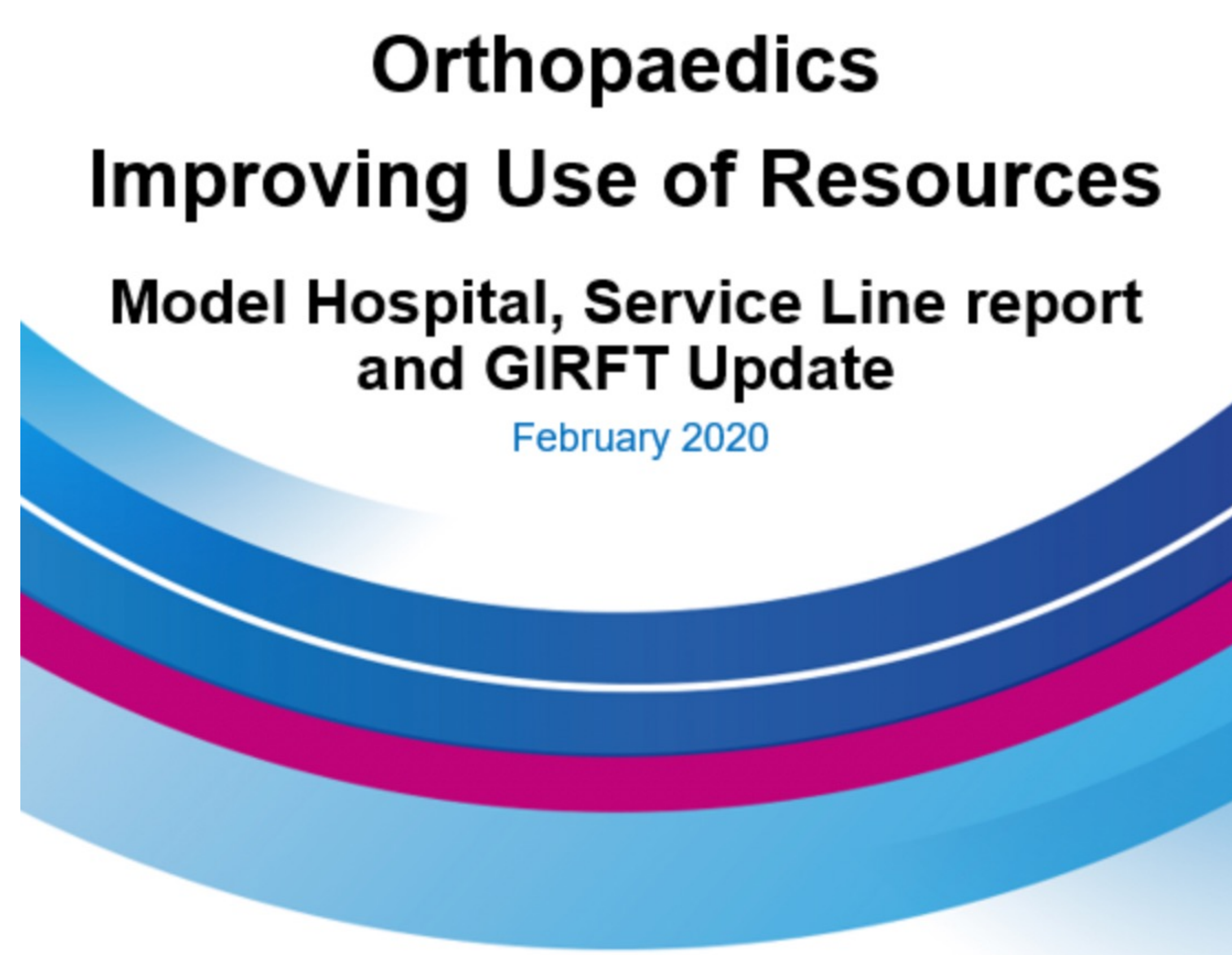
A comparison of clinician gathered data with data submitted to the Model Hospital and the Getting It Right First Time programme

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Background

The Model Hospital is a digital tool used to support efficiency within NHS trusts. Information is used to address variations in performance on both peer and national levels and it is submitted to Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT). Reliability of data is essential as it is a reflection on trust performance and also used by GIRFT to plan services nationally. The 2019 Lewisham and Greenwich Model Hospital Report showed the length of stay for arthroplasty was longer than the GIRFT average. We believed this metric and the numbers to be inaccurate and therefore performed our own audit.



Methods

Trust data on every operation in 2019 was reviewed and all hip, knee and shoulder arthroplasty selected using Excel. We are confident of inclusion of all elective arthroplasty. The date and time of admission and discharge on the discharge summary on the electronic record system iCare was used to calculate the length of stay in days.

Results

539 cases were identified. Our results show:

- Median length of stay of 3.3 days for hip arthroplasty compared to the MH data of 4.0 days
- Median length of stay of 4.1 days for knee arthroplasty compared to the MH data of 4.6 days
- Median length of stay of 2.4 days for shoulder arthroplasty compared to the MH data of 4.1 days.

Implications

MH data is collected by the Business Intelligence Team and it is not reviewed by clinicians before publication. The data is used internally and also submitted to GIRFT and has implications on a much wider scale. We need to ensure that accurate data is being used to make decisions about future services. Clinicians need to work closely with management to review parameters and methods for data collection to ensure that accurate data is published regarding performance.

Conclusions

Our audit demonstrated improved results to those published by the MH and submitted to GIRFT, and show that we are performing better than the GIRFT average. This is an audit that can be readily replicated at different trusts.

