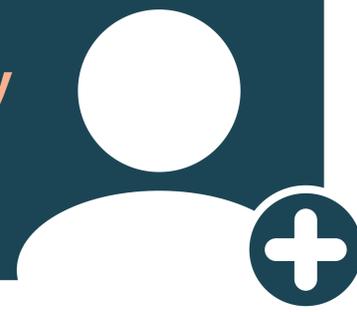


# Developing a vascular lower limb pre-amputation therapy service: **A quality improvement journey**

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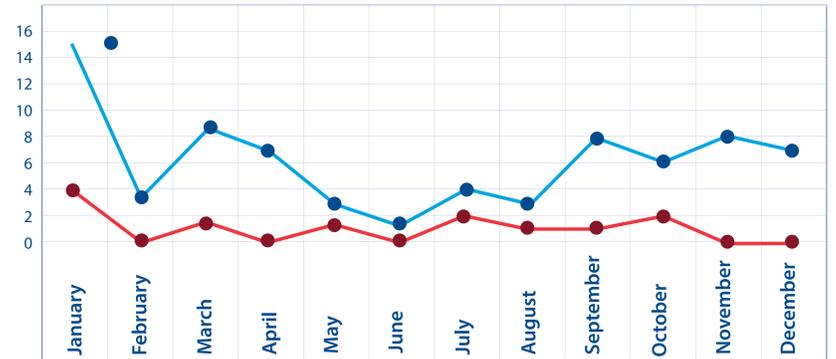
## Project Aim

By December 2017, 50% of patients undergoing lower limb amputation within the vascular service at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary will be offered a pre-amputation assessment by occupational therapists and physiotherapists (including home assessment and wheelchair prescription).

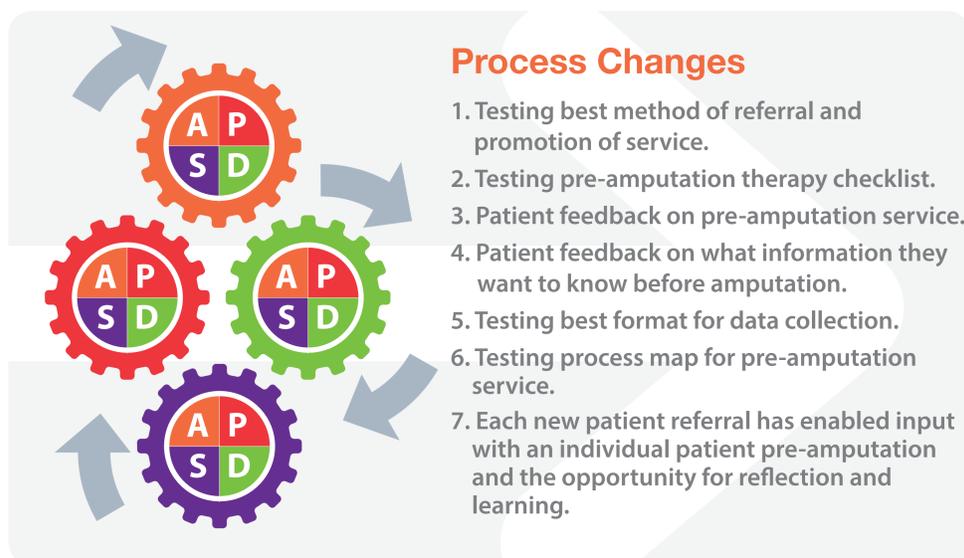
## Background

Amputation of a lower limb is a major life changing event. A key recommendation of the Vascular Society (2016) major amputation clinical care pathway is that rehabilitation and discharge planning should commence before amputation (1). The British Society Rehabilitation Medicine also recommend that patients should have the opportunity, whenever possible for pre-amputation input, to include advice, information and identification of realistic goals (2). A systematic review of the evidence using Medline, Embase and CINAHL indicates a lack of literature on therapy input in the pre-amputation stage. In line with government policies a pre-amputation service aims to provide timely, effective input which is person-centred and facilitates discharge back to a homely environment as soon as possible (3).

## Total number of new amputees per month and number of those new amputees receiving pre-amputation assessment



Pre amputation assessment completed — Total number of new amputee's



## Outcomes

- Organised therapy procedure for pre-amputation referrals & process map.
- Therapy checklist for continuity of input.
- Promotion of service within clinical area.
- Achieved 16% of target.
- 14 new patients referred for pre-amputation input in Jan-December 2017.
- Majority of amputees were emergency status admissions with no opportunity for pre-amputation input.
- Only 3 missed opportunities for pre-amputation assessment where patients were planned admissions.

## What patients want to know before amputation

What extra help will I need?

How will I cope? Work?

**Prosthetic Limb?**

Changes to my life? Benefits?

Length of time to get better?

Why amputation?

Can I walk? **Surgical Process?**

Dependency on others?

Patient feedback on pre-amputation service

**Big Shock**  
Know what to expect  
**Therapist Contact**

Understand what adaptations required

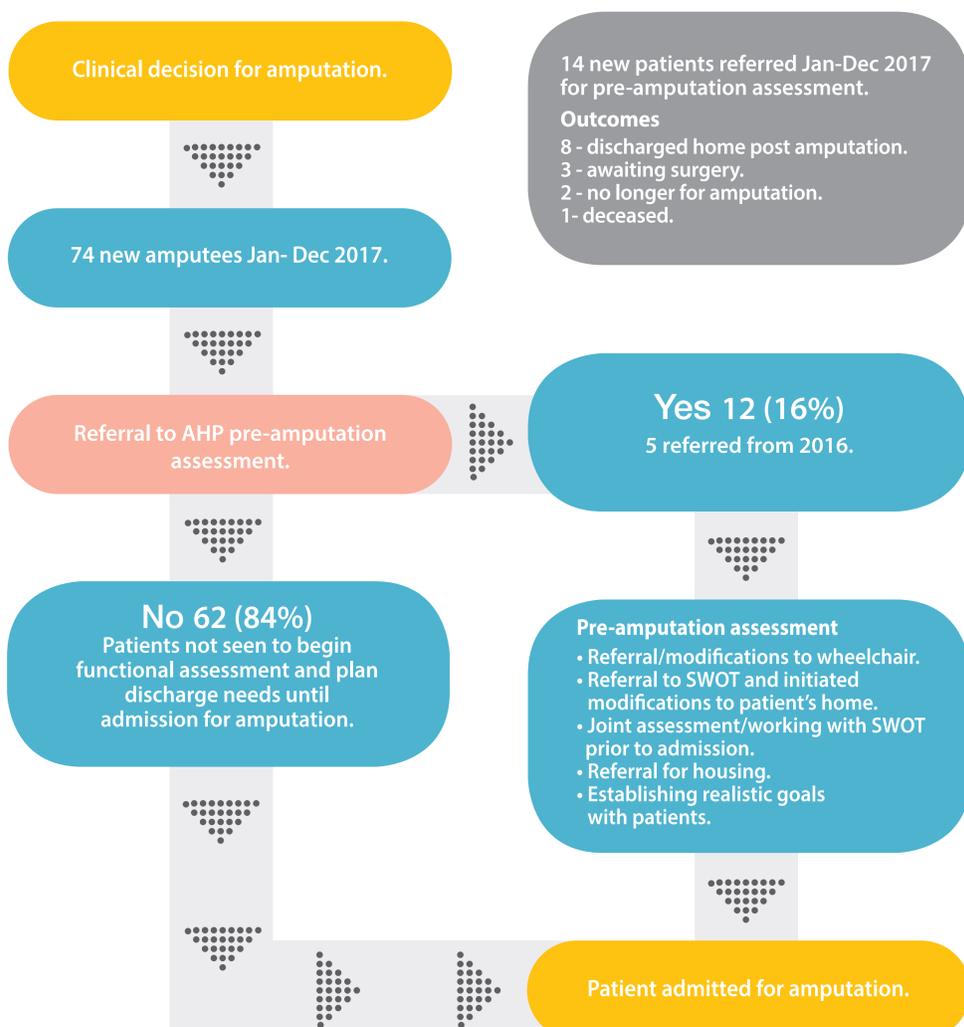
Feel prepared Very important service

Someone to speak to Getting home after surgery

Very helpful Important to have things explained

Planning for moving house

## Results - Current pre-amputation AHP Referral Pathway



## The Future

- All planned admissions for amputation to receive pre-amputation therapy assessment.
- Pre-amputation service to be offered to all patients, whenever possible.
- Continue to share learning and data with vascular team.
- Share QI experience with colleagues.



## Key Learning Points

Team process

Data Analysis & presentation

Communication

QI Confidence

Aim big, start small

QI Terminology

## References

1. Vascular Society (2016) A best practice clinical pathway for major amputation surgery. Available at: [https://www.vascularsociety.org.uk/\\_userfiles/pages/files/Resources/Vasc\\_Soc\\_Amputation\\_Paper\\_V2.pdf](https://www.vascularsociety.org.uk/_userfiles/pages/files/Resources/Vasc_Soc_Amputation_Paper_V2.pdf) (date accessed 12/7/17)
2. British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine (2003) Amputee and prosthetic rehabilitation - standards and guidelines. Available at: <http://www.bsrm.org.uk/downloads/ars-gfinaltext.pdf> (date accessed 12/7/17)
3. Scottish Government (2011) The 20:20 Vision. Available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Health/Policy/2020-Vision> (date accessed 12/7/17)