

# AxSTARS primary care work – SWAG



**Axial SpA**  
**works silently.**  
**We don't.**

## BACKGROUND

SWAG recognises a need to collaborate and engage with local primary care services to achieve our goal of reducing delay to diagnosis for patients with axSpA

This work is part of the Axial SpA Transformation And Redesign of Services (AxSTARS) project

**Primary:** To achieve a sustainable reduction in the time to diagnosis of patients with Axial SpA across the South West of England.

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- SECONDARY**
- 1** To establish a common data set and understand current performance.
  - 2** To develop, agree and adopt a common standardised axial SpA (IBP) pathway across SWAG.
  - 3** Increase the awareness and confidence of primary care HCPs to identify and refer patients with inflammatory back pain.
  - 4** Increase the awareness and confidence of secondary care clinicians to identify and refer patients with inflammatory back pain plus an EMM.
  - 5** To raise public awareness of Axial SpA and the symptoms amongst the general population through integrated marketing (funding dependent)

## OBJECTIVES

- 1) Introduce PRIMIS pop-up tool to aid clinicians working in primary care in detecting cases of IBP
- 2) Create an education programme for primary care professionals
- 3) Increase awareness of new SWAG IBP referral pathway to access secondary care rheumatology services
- 4) Understand and address differences in NSAID prescribing for IBP across SWAG regions

## METHODS

**1)** PRIMIS is a clinical alert tool, which is activated when patients <45 years present to primary care with recurring back pain. This was initially found to be effective in identifying patients appropriate for referral for further investigation in pilot practices in BaNES CCG.

One NHS GP surgery in Bath have completed a retrospective audit to identify patients who may have an unmet need. Subsequently the PRIMIS tool has been introduced in multiple practices across Somerset to gather prospective data on referral patterns.



## METHODS

**2 + 3)** Education sessions delivered to:

- Bath BGPert
- Somerset BGPert
- SWAG region-wide virtual session

**4)** We have carried out a baseline audit of NSAID prescribing for patients with inflammatory back pain in the region

## RESULTS

## Hillcrest audit using PRIMIS tool

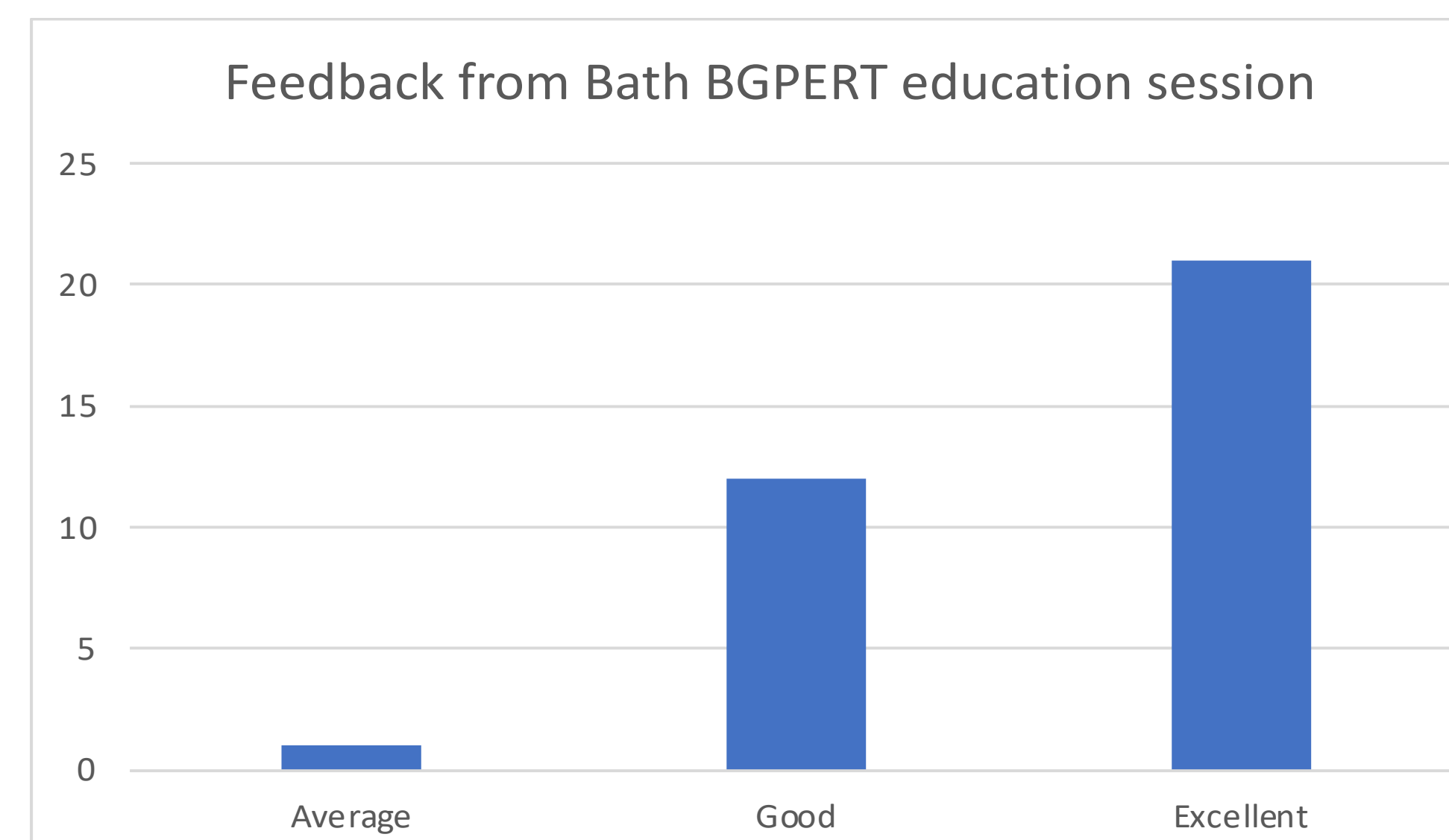
## Axial Spondyloarthritis (AxSpA) Report

[illegible]

One patient with two or more episodes of back pain in the preceding year was identified by this retrospective audit. This method relies on accurate coding, therefore the true number may, in reality, be higher.

This tool is now part of a wider pilot in multiple surgeries across Somerset and we will gather prospective data over a twelve month period.

### Feedback from education sessions in primary care:



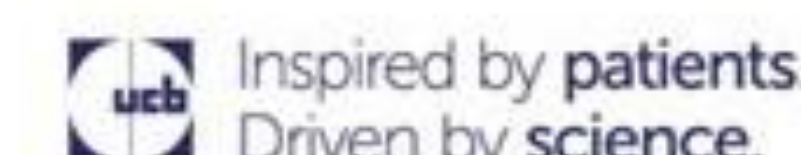
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## Driving improvements in axial SpA care