Releasing clinical time through better access to Point-of-Care (PoC) testing

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Aims:
1. To reduce the time taken to run PoC analysis in the Acute Medical Unit (AMU) by 50% by December 2018
2. To achieve consensus regarding the panel of test required in AMU

Method:
We secured the hire of another blood gas analyser and located it centrally within the AMU
Training was delivered to approximately 90 clinical staff
PoC demand was monitored before and after introduction as was the overall process time

Results:
1. Blood gas analysis now takes an average of 5 minutes
This results in saving almost 2 hours per day or 608 clinical hours per year which would equate to between £7-11k per annum saving in staff time

Balancing measures:
Whilst there is a slight upward trend in demand for PoC this appears not to be dramatic over the 6,970 samples taken over the past 10 weeks

2. This was discontinued following closer observations of the application in clinical care and once full costings were known

Next steps:
We are entering another PDSA cycle with the high frequency users to ensure testing is appropriate