

**QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (QIP) TARGETS
QUARTERLY TRUST BOARD REPORT
*NATIONAL EARLY WARNING SCORES (NEWS)***

6 November 2025

National Early Warning Scores (NEWS2)

NEWS 2 is embedded in the Western Trust in all hospital relevant Wards / Departments.

The National Early Warning Score (NEWS2) is a standardised tool which improves the detection and response to clinical deterioration in adult patients and is a key element of patient safety and improving patient outcomes. The underlying principles are that patients who develop serious illness, will usually display abnormalities in physiological parameters (respiration rate, oxygen saturations, systolic blood pressure, pulse rate, level of consciousness / new confusion and / or temperature) and that if these early signs are recognised and appropriate prompt escalation and intervention occurs, patient outcomes will be improved.

Appropriate and accurate use of NEWS 2 requires staff to:

- Record vital physiological signs correctly
- Follow approved escalation plan and call for appropriate help within an agreed timeframe
- Ensure that sick or deteriorating patients are reviewed by the appropriate level of medical (or nursing staff) as per Trust escalation protocol, within a specific timeframe and to record any interventions that may have occurred.

Wards / Departments continued to audit the compliance of the NEWS2 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) on a bi-monthly basis from 1st October 2024 until encompass Go Live on 8th May 2025 .Exception reports and action plans were submitted through the Professional Nursing SharePoint site and exceptions included in Directorate Governance meetings. Any issues, themes or variances with these audits were discussed at the bi-monthly Nursing Accountability and Assurance meetings to provide a clear consistent approach and assurance on the standards of practice, conduct and professionalism of nursing and midwifery care services. The Nursing and Midwifery Accountability and Assurance committee hold operational Nursing & Midwifery management to account when NEWS2 audit results demonstrate aspects of care have not been delivered to the required standard.

Post the (encompass) digital health care record system Go Live on 8th May 2025 the audit of NEWS2 has been paused as work continues on the documentation within the system of the escalation taken by staff and the build for the KPI audit report. A regional encompass Deteriorating Patient group has been set up to look at the digital system and work is ongoing - WHSCT representation on this group is the CNMIO, Professional Nursing representation and clinical staff.

As the digital KPI audit build is not complete, the WHSCT Professional Nursing team have shared the regionally revised NEWS2 KPI audit tool with the Lead Nurses and have asked that they audit NEWS2 compliance on the digital system from September 2025 to provide assurance on the current standards of practice. The sample size is five charts per ward / department each month. The September (manually collected) audit scores are not available at the time of compiling this report and will be included in the next report.

The results of the audits will continue to be discussed at the Nursing Accountability and Assurance meetings with any themes or variances identified and action / improvement plans shared.

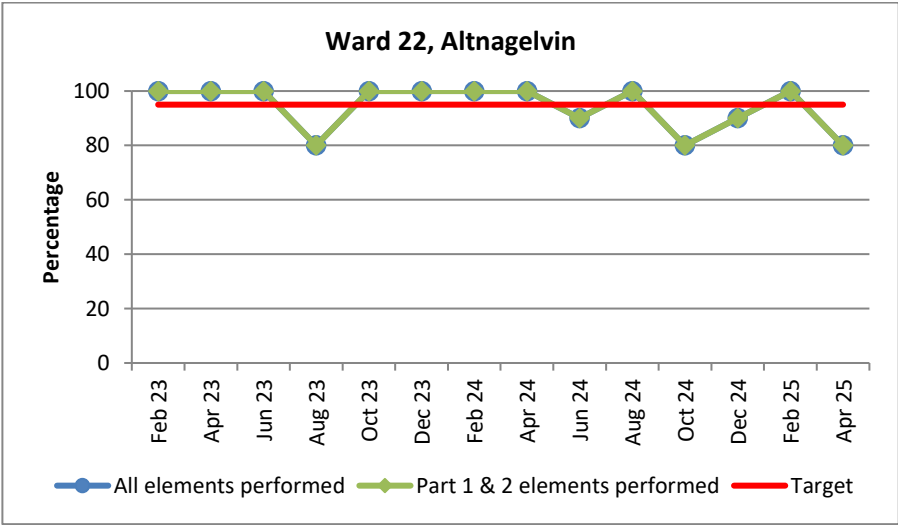
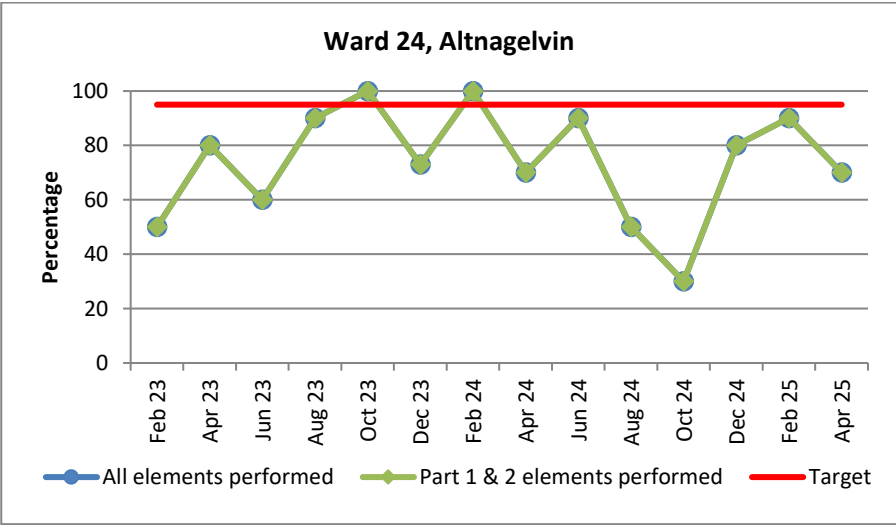
The inability to pull an audit report on NEWS2 compliance from the encompass system (due to the ongoing build work) has been added to the Risk Register.

All staff are advised to complete the online e-learning module from the Royal College of Physicians London and ongoing training regarding escalation of NEWS scores is provided through Resuscitation Council UK Immediate Life Support (ILS) courses delivered by the Trust's Resuscitation Team. Drills, both announced and unannounced (as resources allow), are performed at ward/department level to re-enforce the learning on the documentation of NEWS and the escalation as per Trust NEWS 2 action protocol.

The run charts below detail the paper audit of 10 patient charts pre encompass which was completed bi-monthly by each adult inpatient ward and compliance is recorded in the run charts below. Frequency of audits may be increased for individual wards based on results.

Bi-monthly Audits by Ward

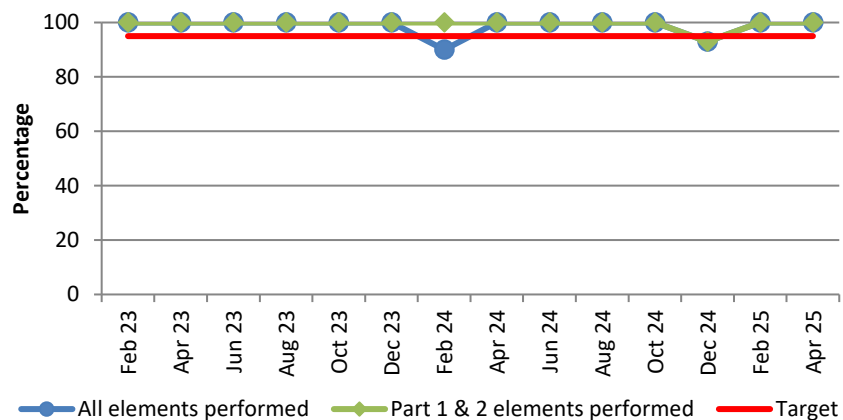
National Early Warning Scores (NEWS)
Target: To achieve 95% compliance with accurately completed NEWS charts in all adult inpatient wards.



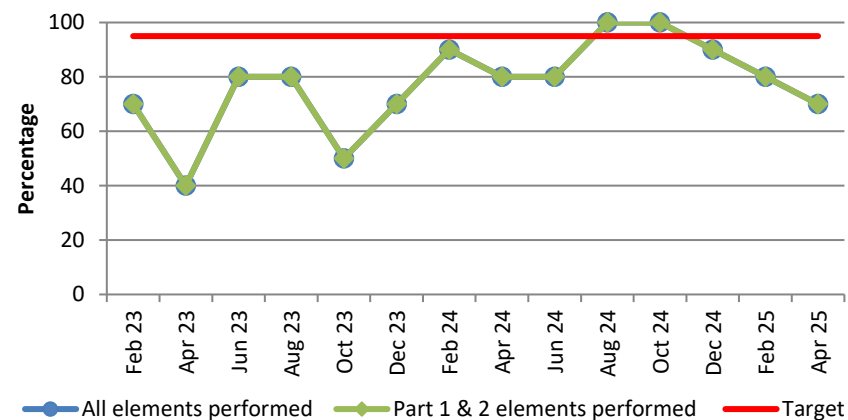
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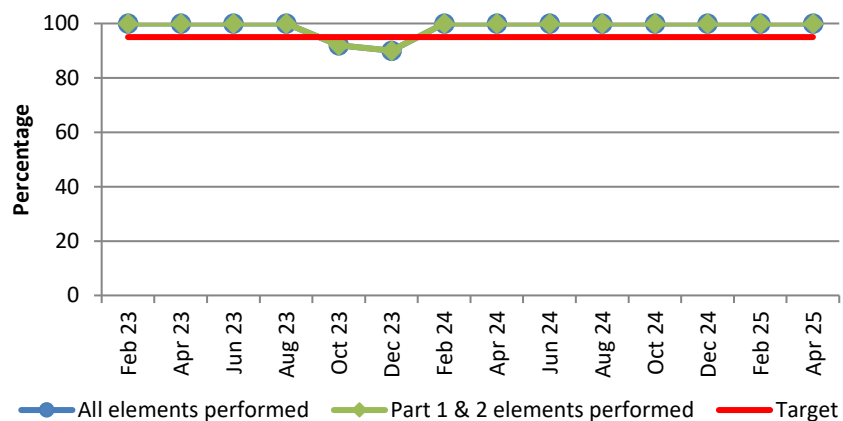
Ward 26, Altnagelvin



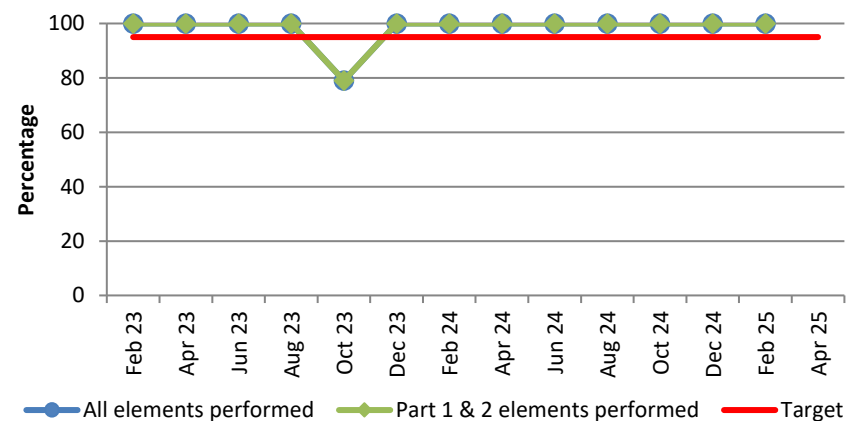
Ward 41 AMU, Altnagelvin



Ward 44, Altnagelvin



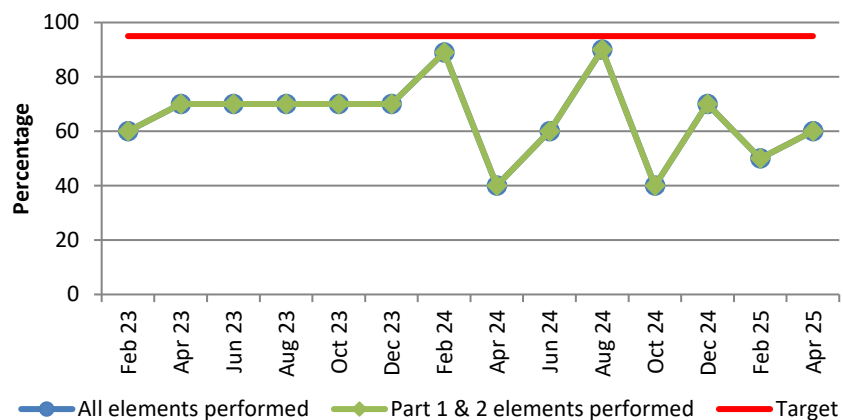
CCU, Altnagelvin



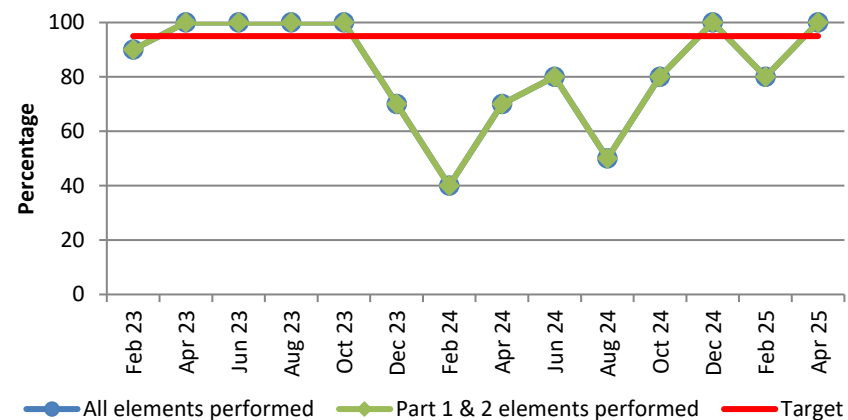
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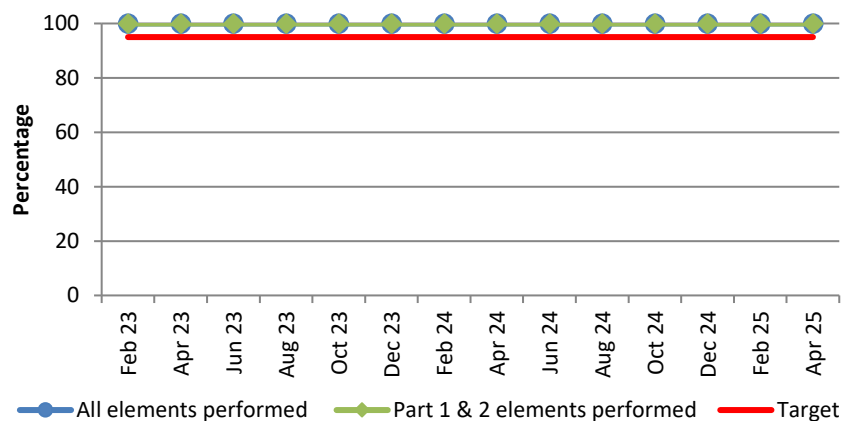
Ward 1 MSAU, SWAH



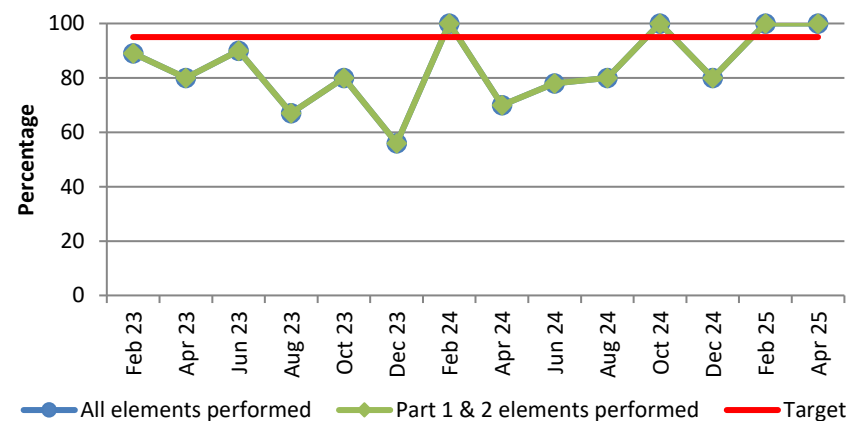
Ward 2, SWAH



Ward 8 Medical, SWAH



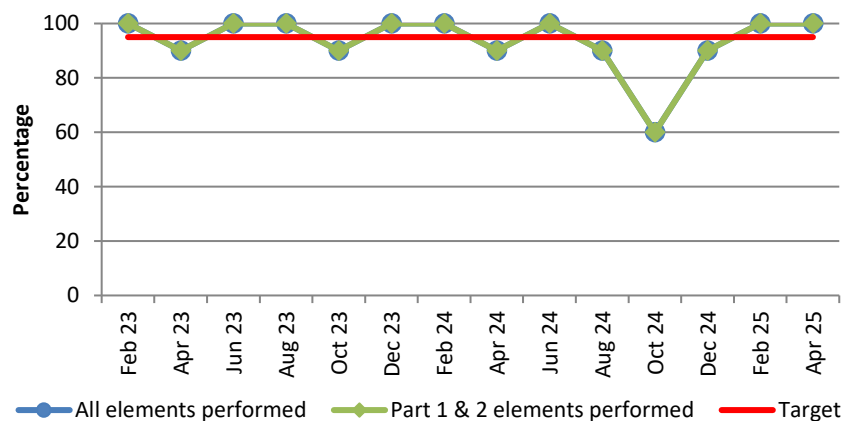
Cardiac Unit, SWAH



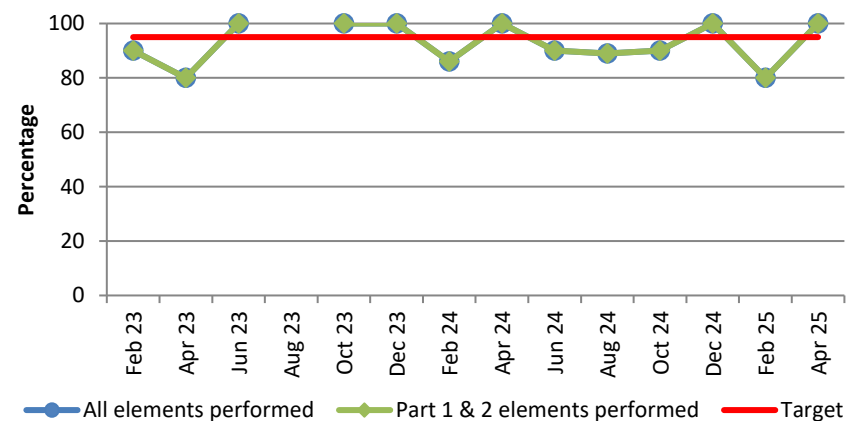
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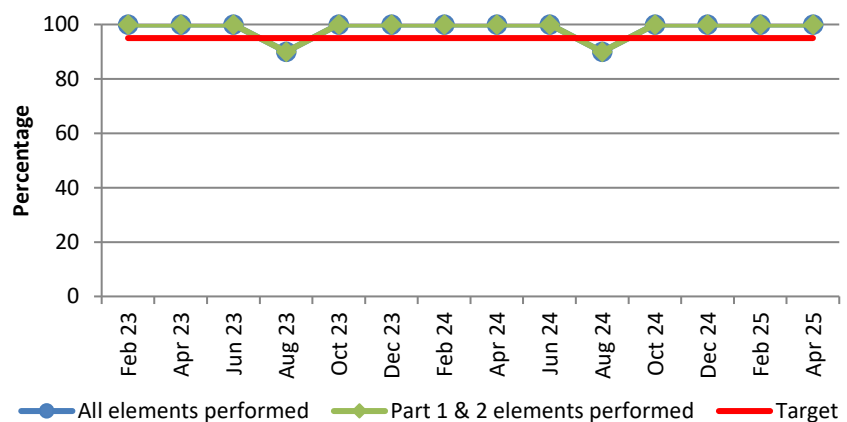
Ward 23 TOU, Altnagelvin



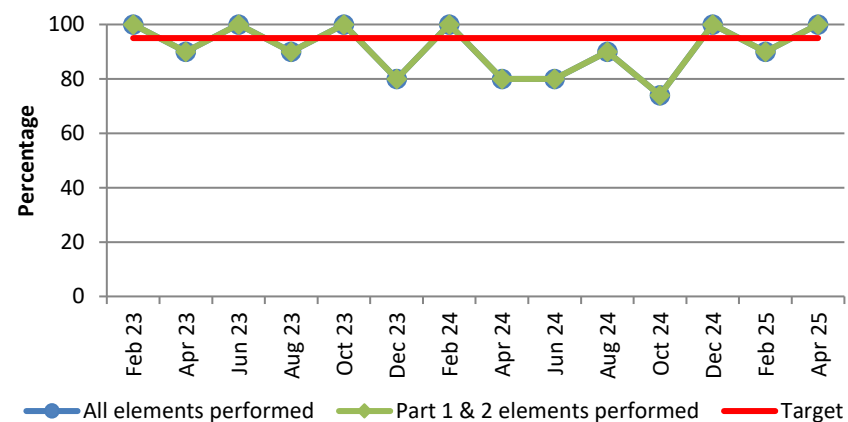
Ward 31, Altnagelvin



Ward 32, Altnagelvin



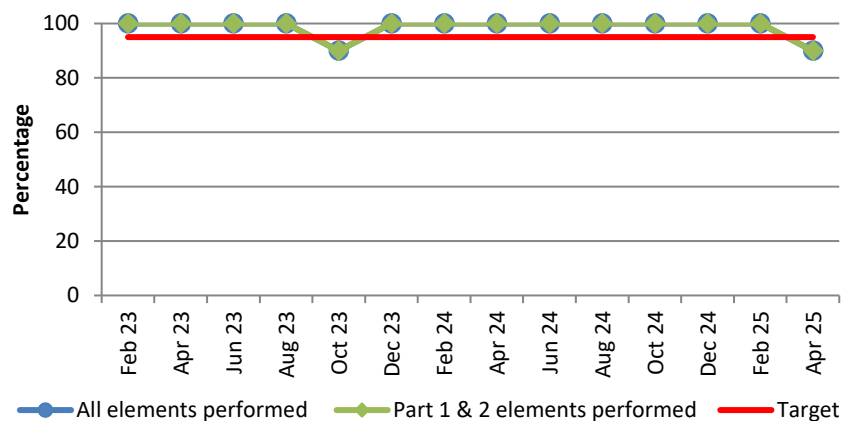
Ward 21 EOU, Altnagelvin



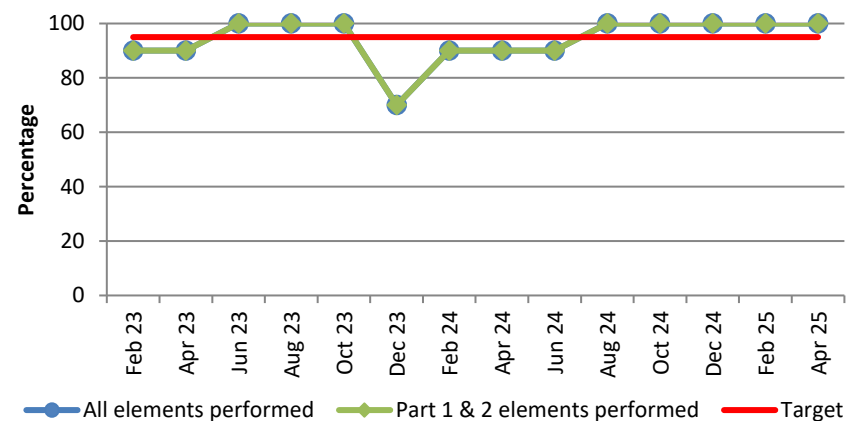
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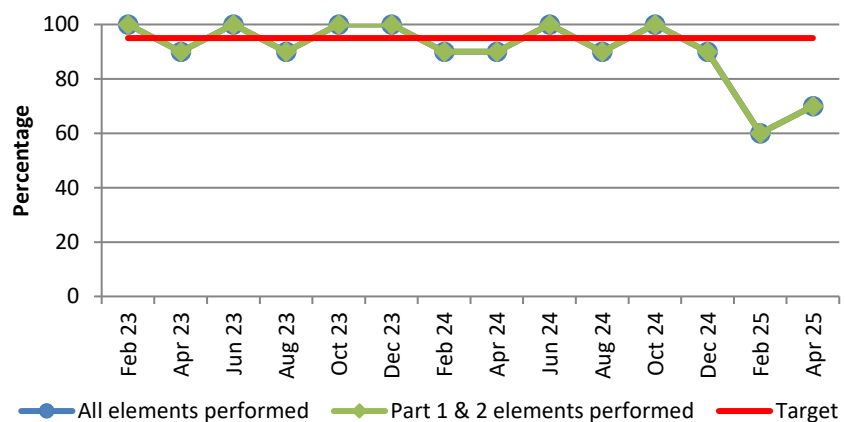
Ward 4, Altnagelvin



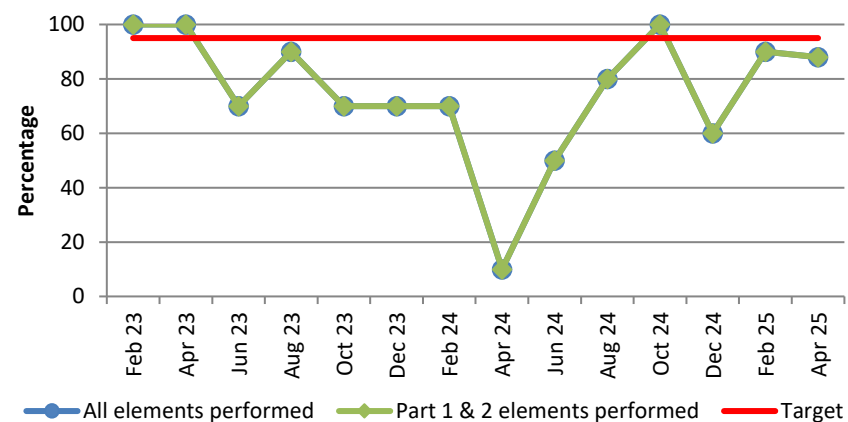
Ward 3 Surgical, SWAH



Ward 9, SWAH

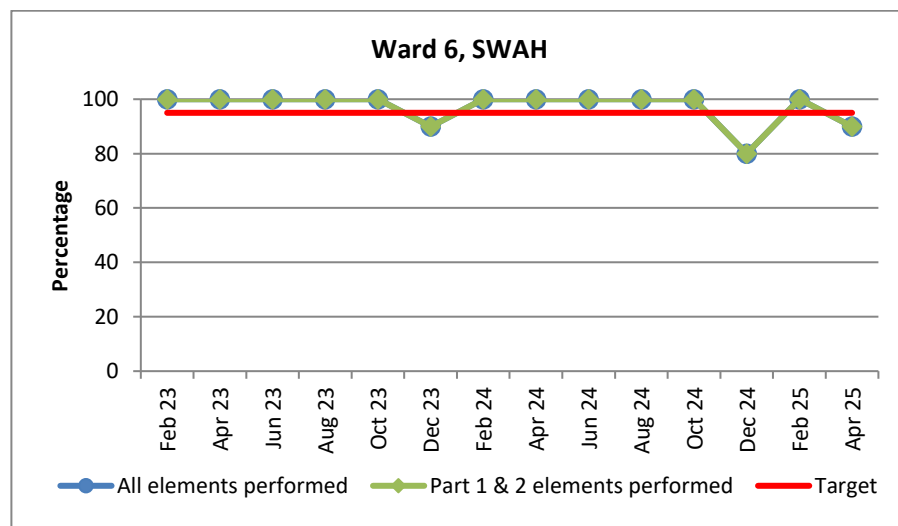
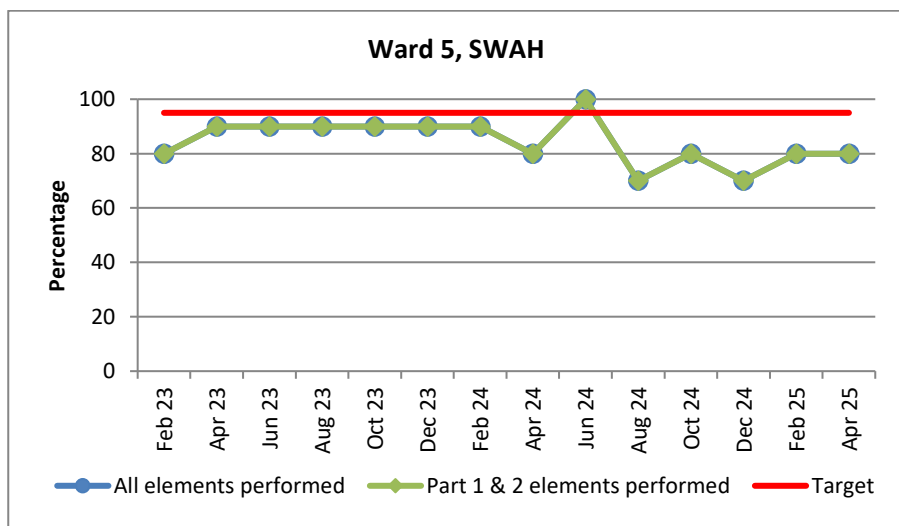
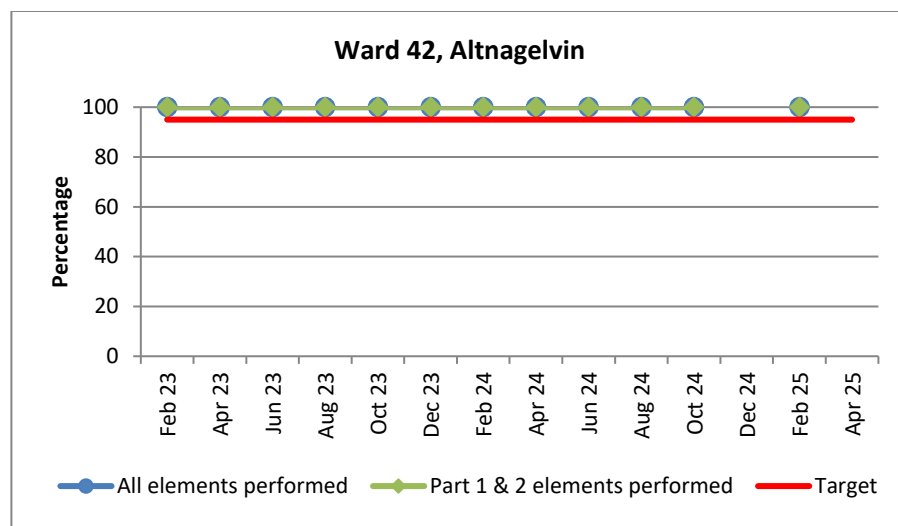
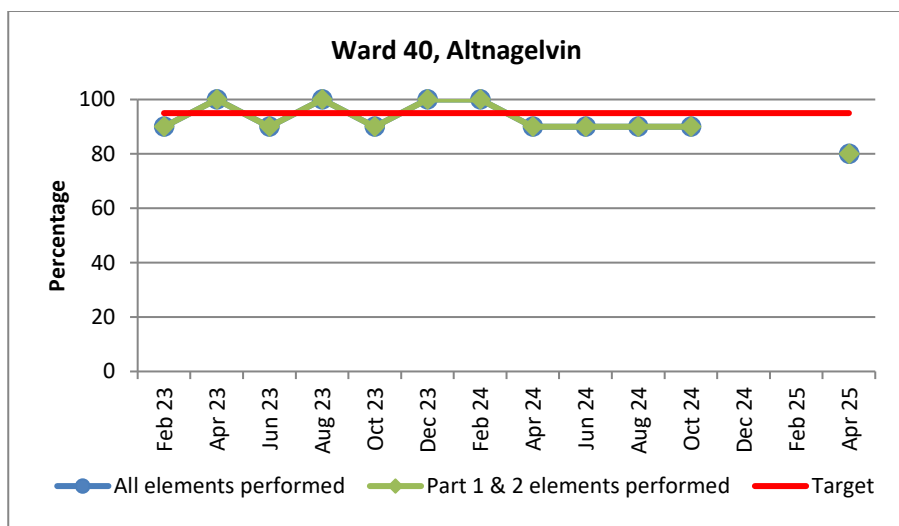


Ward 50, Altnagelvin



National Early Warning Scores (NEWS)

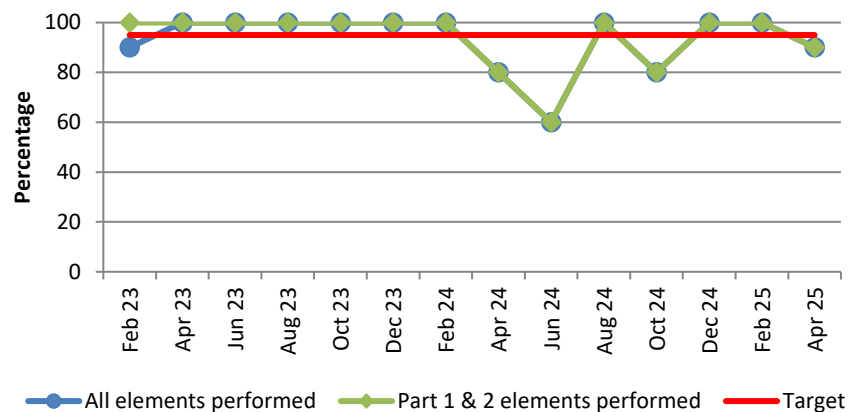
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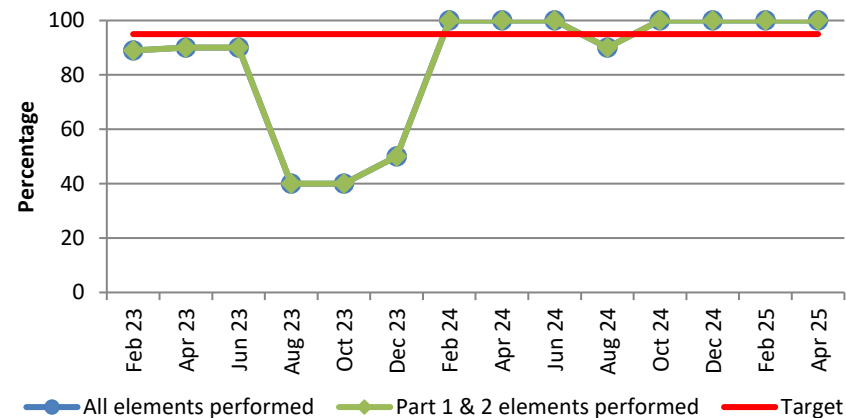
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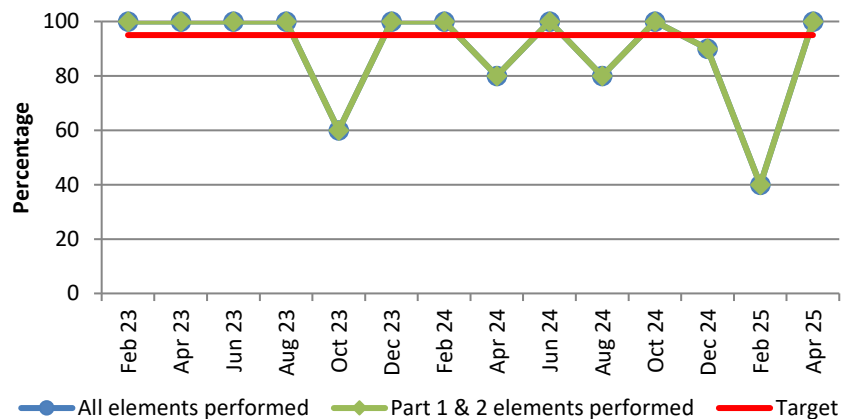
Ward 7, SWAH



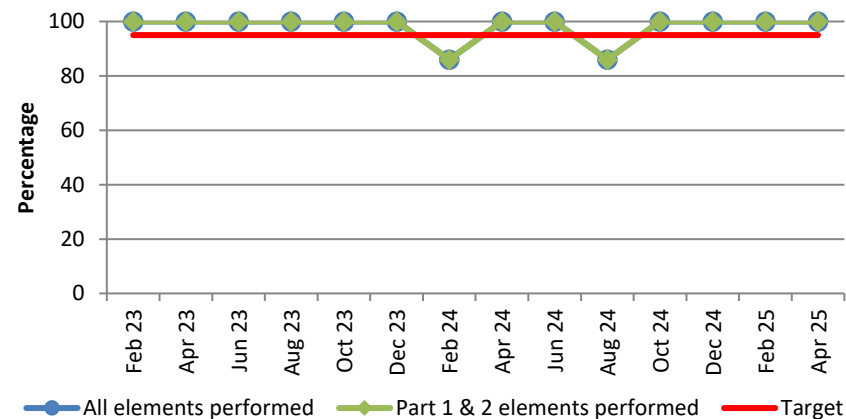
Ward 43 Gynae, Altnagelvin



Rehabilitation Unit, OHPCC

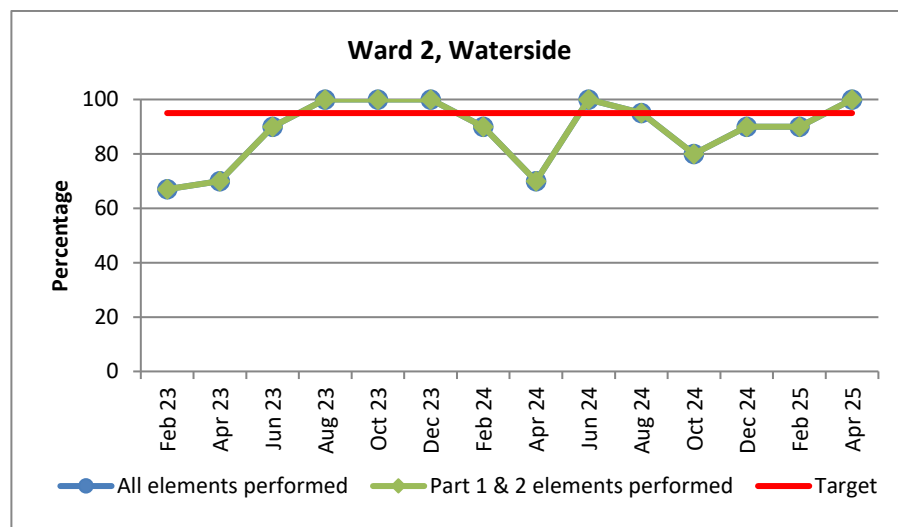
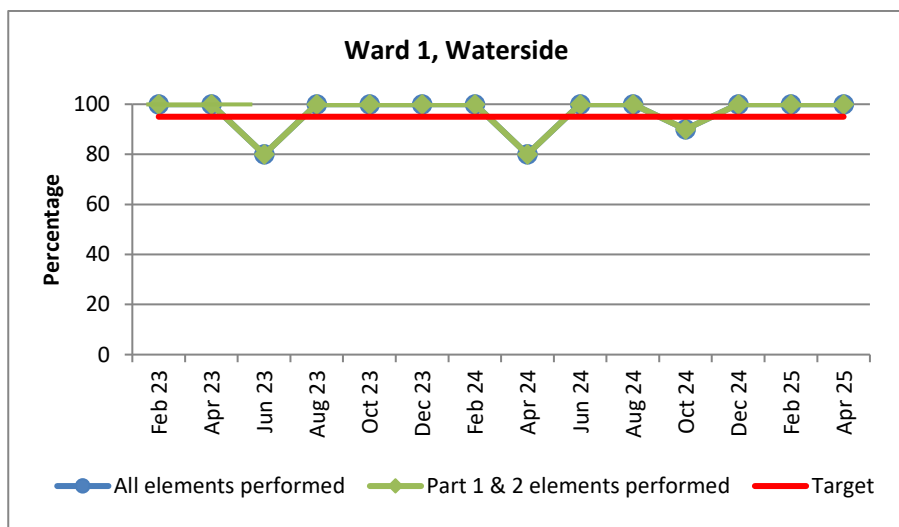
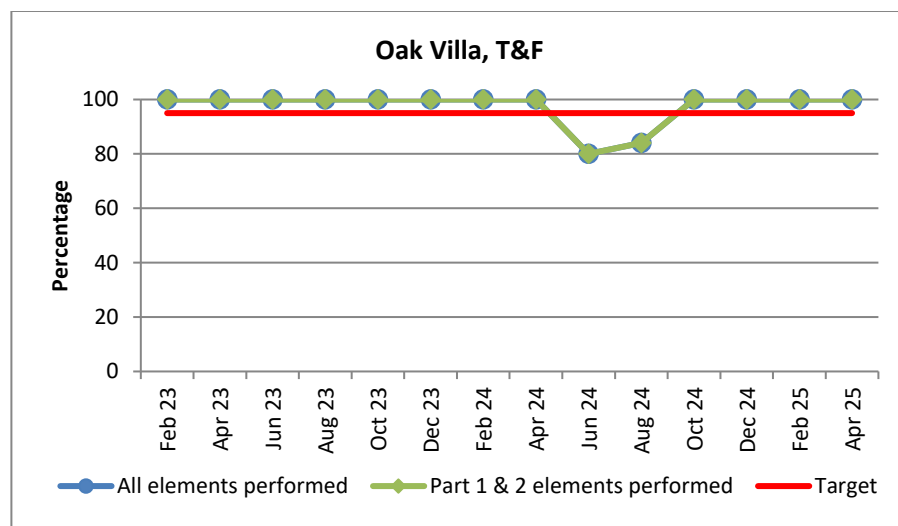
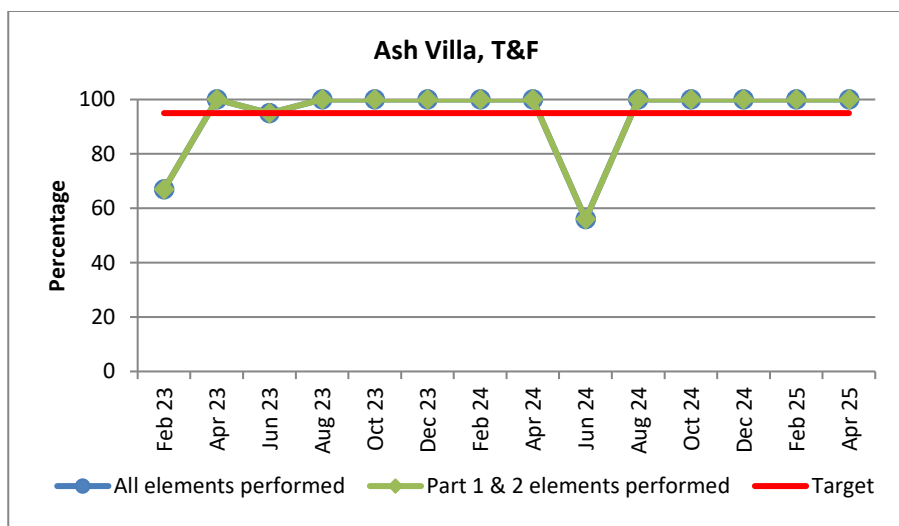


Palliative Ward, OHPCC



National Early Warning Scores (NEWS)

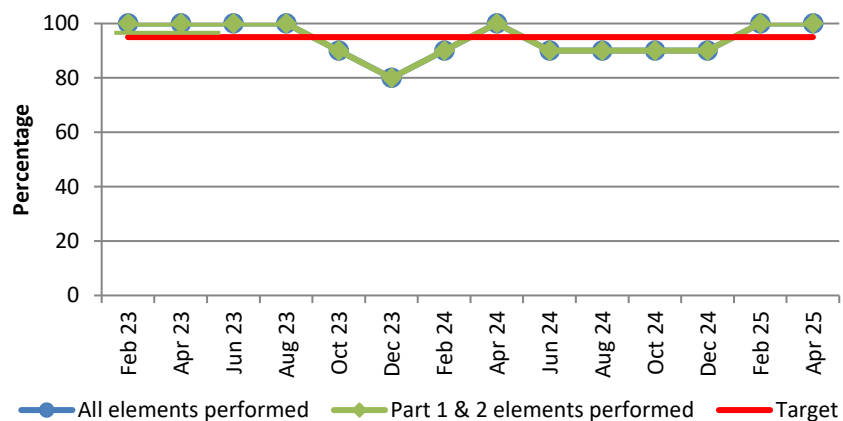
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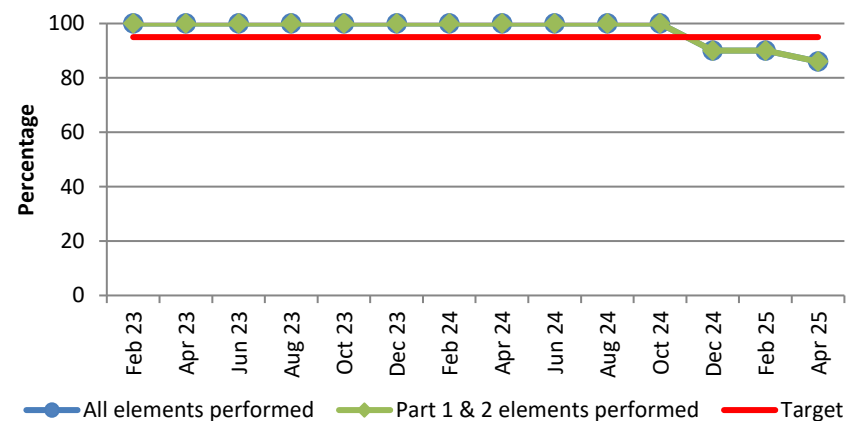
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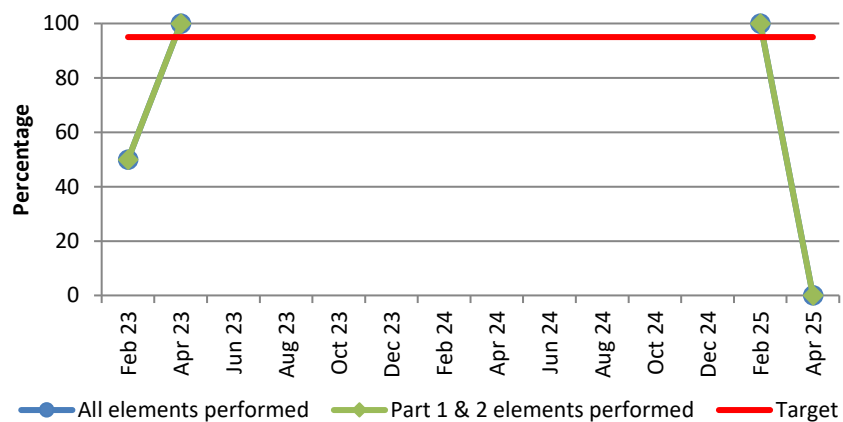
Ward 3, Waterside



Ward 4, Waterside



Strule Lodge, Lakeview



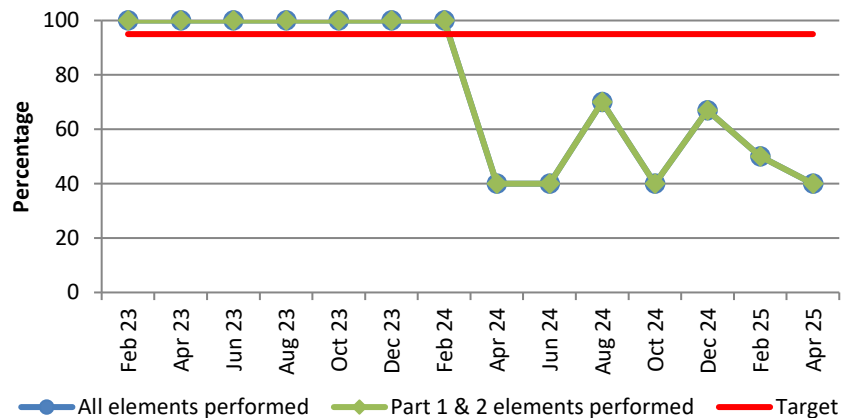
Carrick Ward, Grangewood



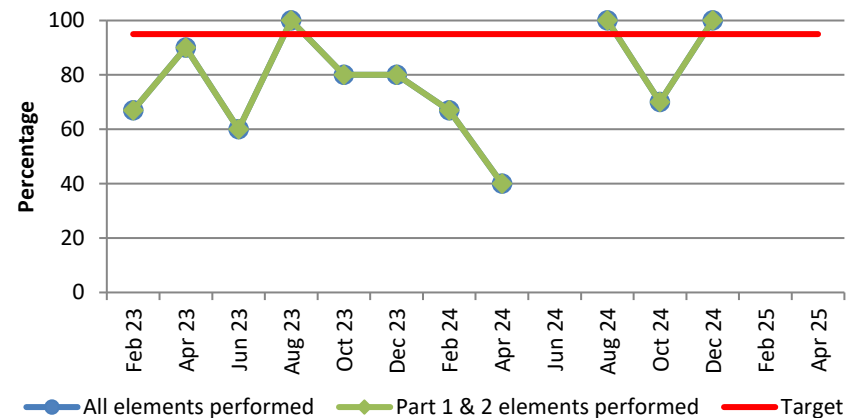
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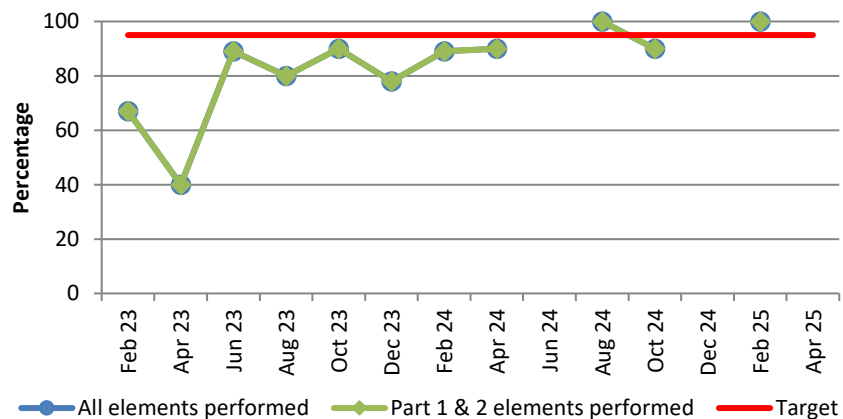
Evish Ward, Grangewood



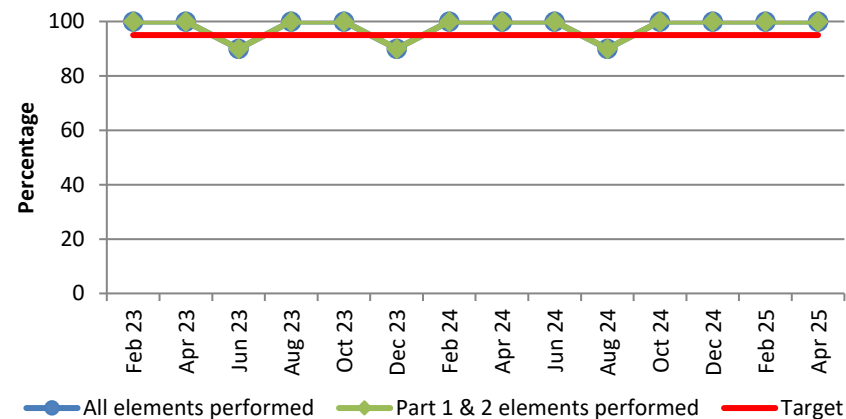
Elm Ward, T&F



Lime Ward, T&F

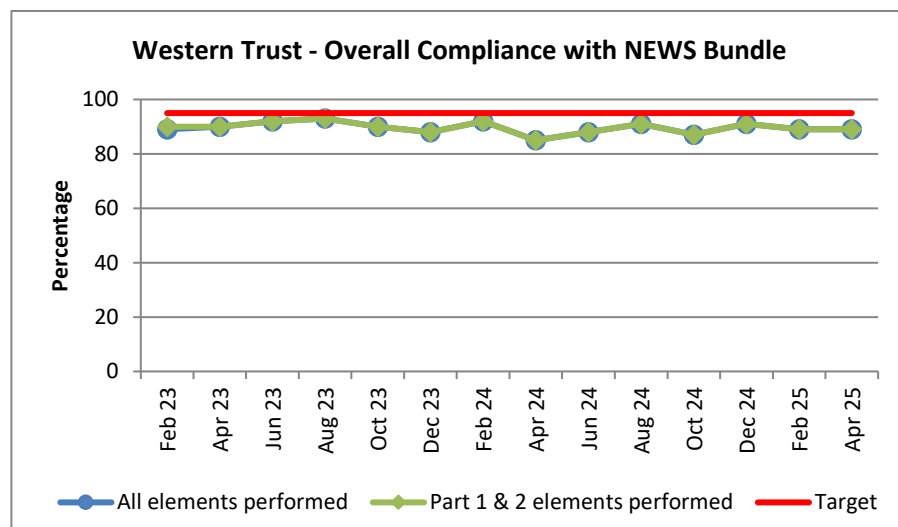
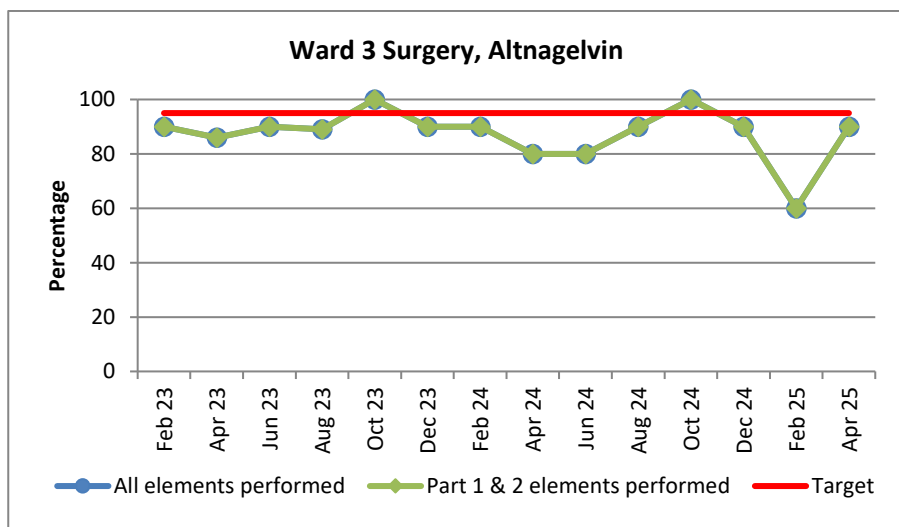
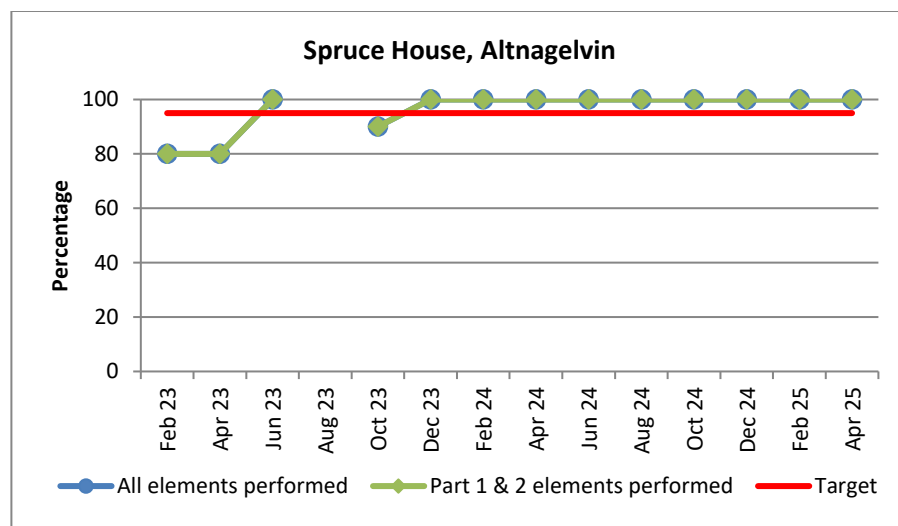
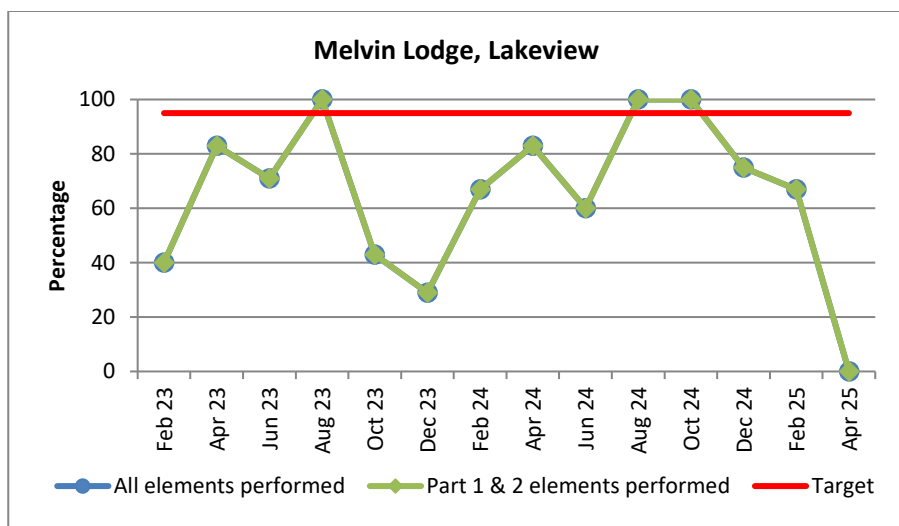


Ward 25 FOU, Altnagelvin



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