

# Embracing IT Technology to improve Patient Safety & Experience

Lilian Chiwera & Dr Neil Wigglesworth

Infection Prevention & Control at Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust



## Background

- Most Health Care Professional (HCP) time is spend on documentation
- IT can be used to improve patient safety & promote safe standards through electronic record keeping
- This leads to **safer, shared, joined up care** = improved clinical decision making

**Safer hospitals safer wards technology fund** (integrated digital care technology fund) launched in May 2013 by the Secretary of State for health & Sir Bruce Keogh (medical director) NHS England

### Grants made available to fund IT implementation programmes

NHS England delivered, administered and governed funds

- 1st round awards - >£195million
- 2nd round awards - £44million

Harnessing information revolution - **NHS 5 year forward plan - paperless by 2020!**

## What did we do?

- Initial consultations and managing expectations
- Several meetings initially coupled with teleconferences
- SSI module - basic system designed to fulfil mandatory requirements
- Collaborative work between ICNet and GSTT
- Different stakeholders
  - Project manager
  - Galaxy team - trust & suppliers
  - ICNet team
  - Trust IT
  - SSIS team leader - ensure needs met

Testing phase, teething problems & final product release / launch  
Developed an easy reporting system for local and national use (mandatory data) together

Documentation a necessity in health care

Choosing an appropriate IT option

Collaborative approach between GSTT & ICNet

Benefits of the IT system

SSI Data collection challenges

GSTT commenced prospective voluntary SSIS

Sustaining high level of SSIS and demonstrating patient benefits

## Benefits of ICNet

Galaxy  
EPR  
PIMS  
Lab sift

Opsift rules enable only required codes to be imported

ICNet

- ✓ Stopped manual entries in excel databases
- ✓ Export reports for validation
- ✓ CSV exports to PHE
- ✓ Readmission alerts
- ✓ Positive wound swabs alerts
- ✓ Trends - WCC, CRP etc
- ✓ Secure database
- ✓ Audit trail
- ✓ No more missing databases

## SSI surveillance challenges

- Data collection – resource intensive
  - Minimum of a quarter but not sufficient numbers in national database
  - Potentially underestimating SSI incidence
  - Potential for organisations to “Pick and Choose” submitted quarters
    - difficult to compare data
- But we need to **improve patient safety**

## SSIS at GSTT

**SSI team of 3** coordinates data collection covering both Guy's & St Thomas' sites

SSI surveillance forms completed by clinical staff

### Initially

- Poor compliance (SSI team manually collecting most data)
- Use of Excel reports – manual creation and manual updates
- Manual data submission to PHE
  - Time consuming

## IT applications available

1. EPR
2. Galaxy
3. TomCat
4. PIMS
5. Heart suite
6. Healthware

**X They don't communicate with each other!!**

**X Lots of passwords and time spend navigating between systems to extract required data**

## Where are we now?

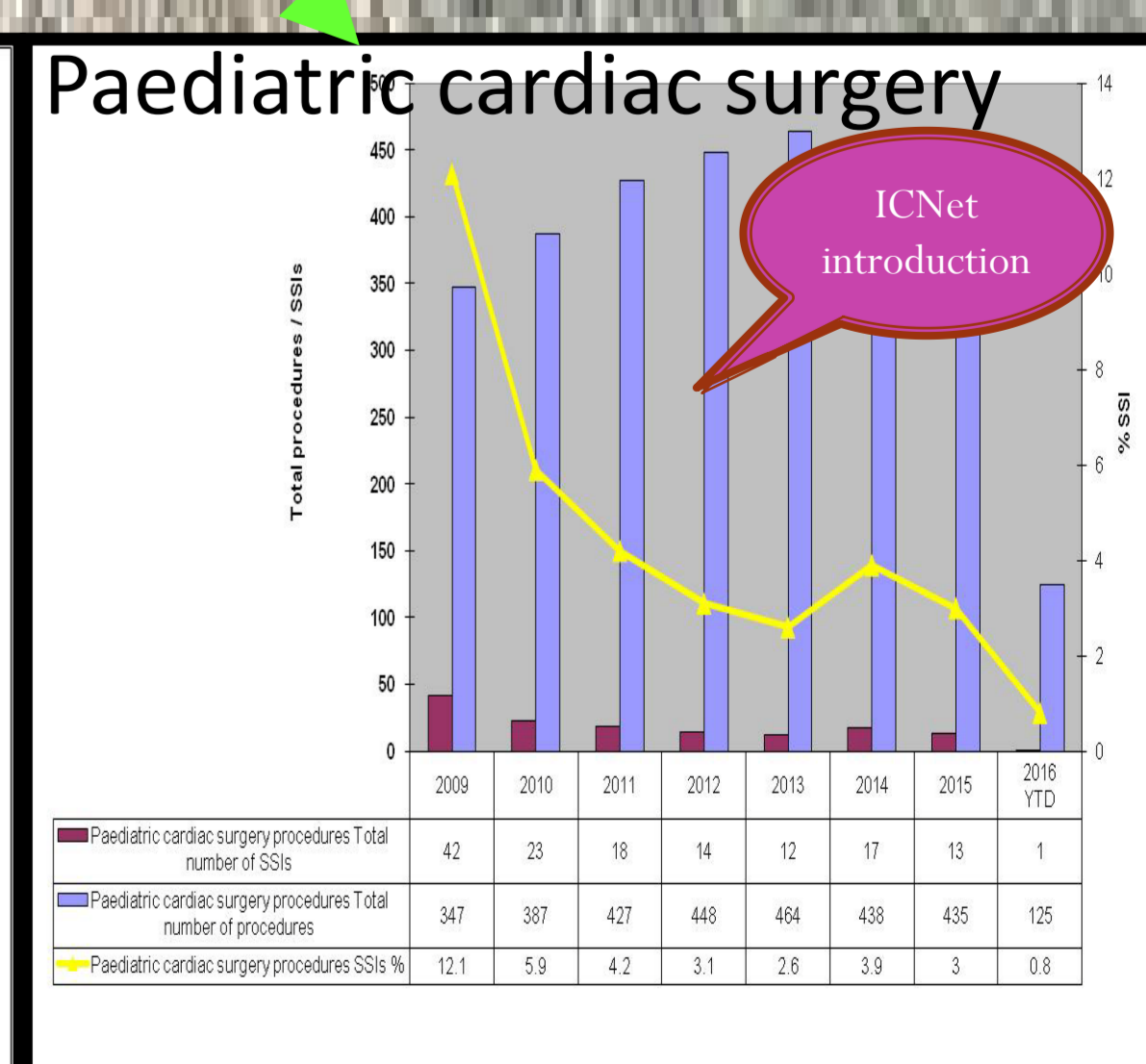
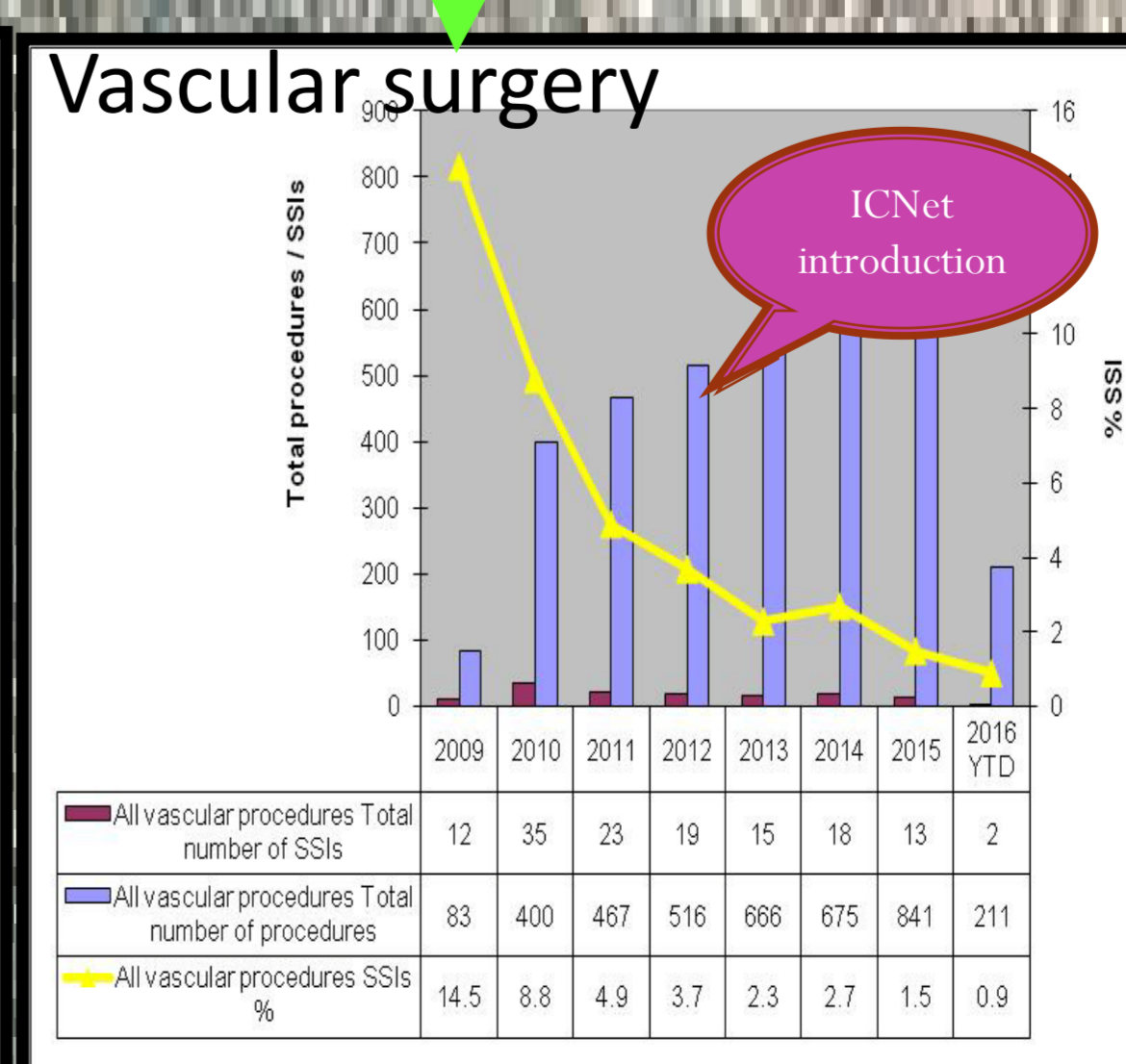
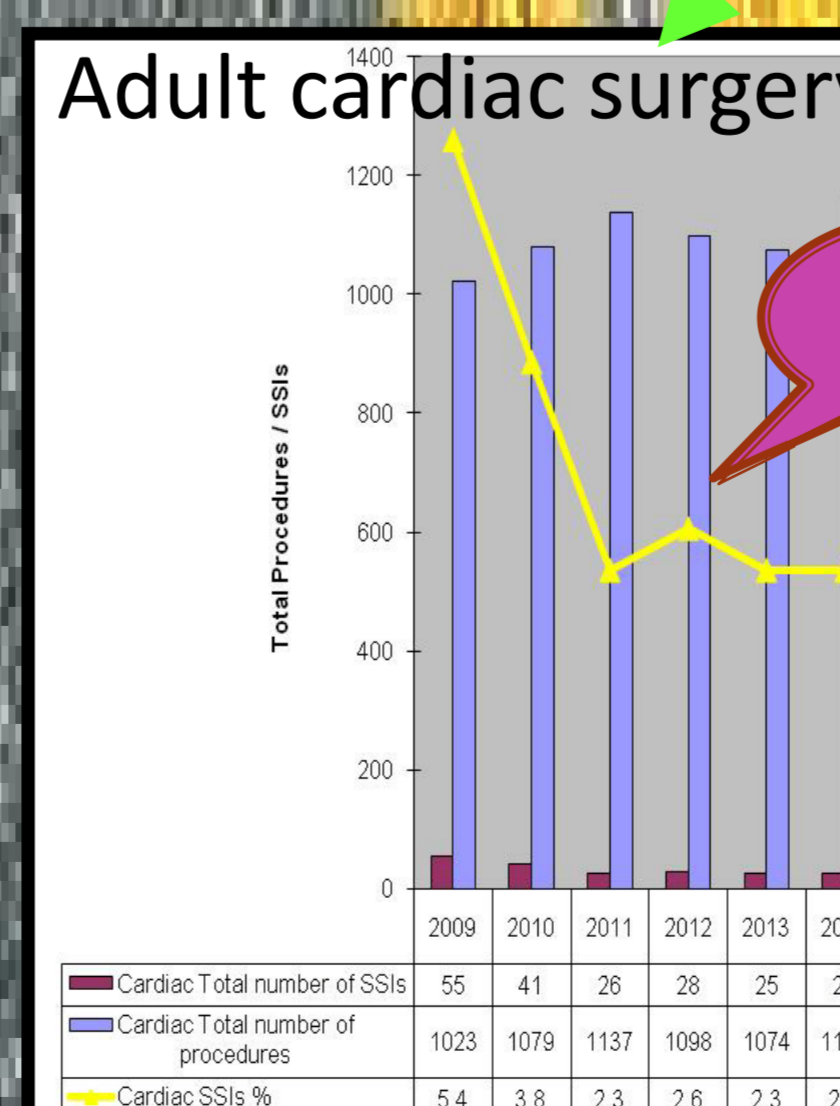
**Reduced workload & enabled expansion – 11 surgical specialties still 3 staff!**

More time on:

- Data feedback
- Presentations / awareness / staff support
- Improvement initiatives
- Post discharge surveillance for C-sections
- Improved team morale

Did this help us to improve patient safety & experience?

## Sustained improvement



## Acknowledgements

1. Dr William Newsholme – Infection control consultant & SSIS Medical Lead
  2. Dr Nicholas Price & Eileen Sills – Joint Directors of Infection Prevention & Control
  3. Infection Prevention and Control Team at Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
  4. SSIS Specialty leads at Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
  5. All staff on surgical wards and affiliated areas at Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
- Email: [Lillian.chiwera@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:Lillian.chiwera@gstt.nhs.uk) for further details

## References

1. Public Health England (2013) Protocol for Surveillance of surgical site infections: Version 6.
2. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2013) Surgical Site Infection: NICE quality standard 49.
3. NHS England (2014) The Integrated Digital Care Fund: Achieving integrated health and care records. Available at: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/idcr.pdf>.
4. NHS England (2013) Safer Hospitals Safer Wards: Achieving an integrated digital care record. Available at: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/safer-hosp-safer-wards.pdf>.