HSC Health and Social Care

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An Roinn Sláinte
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Applying QI methodology to reduce Opioid prescribing in General Practice

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Medical Adviser
Directorate of Integrated Care
GPNI 25th January 2024

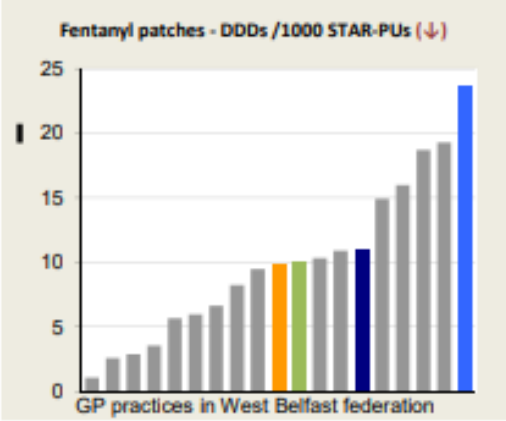
Strategic Planning and Performance Group

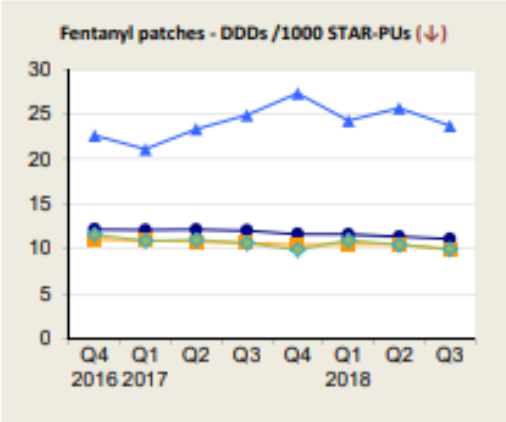
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Is there room for improvement?

July-Sept 2018





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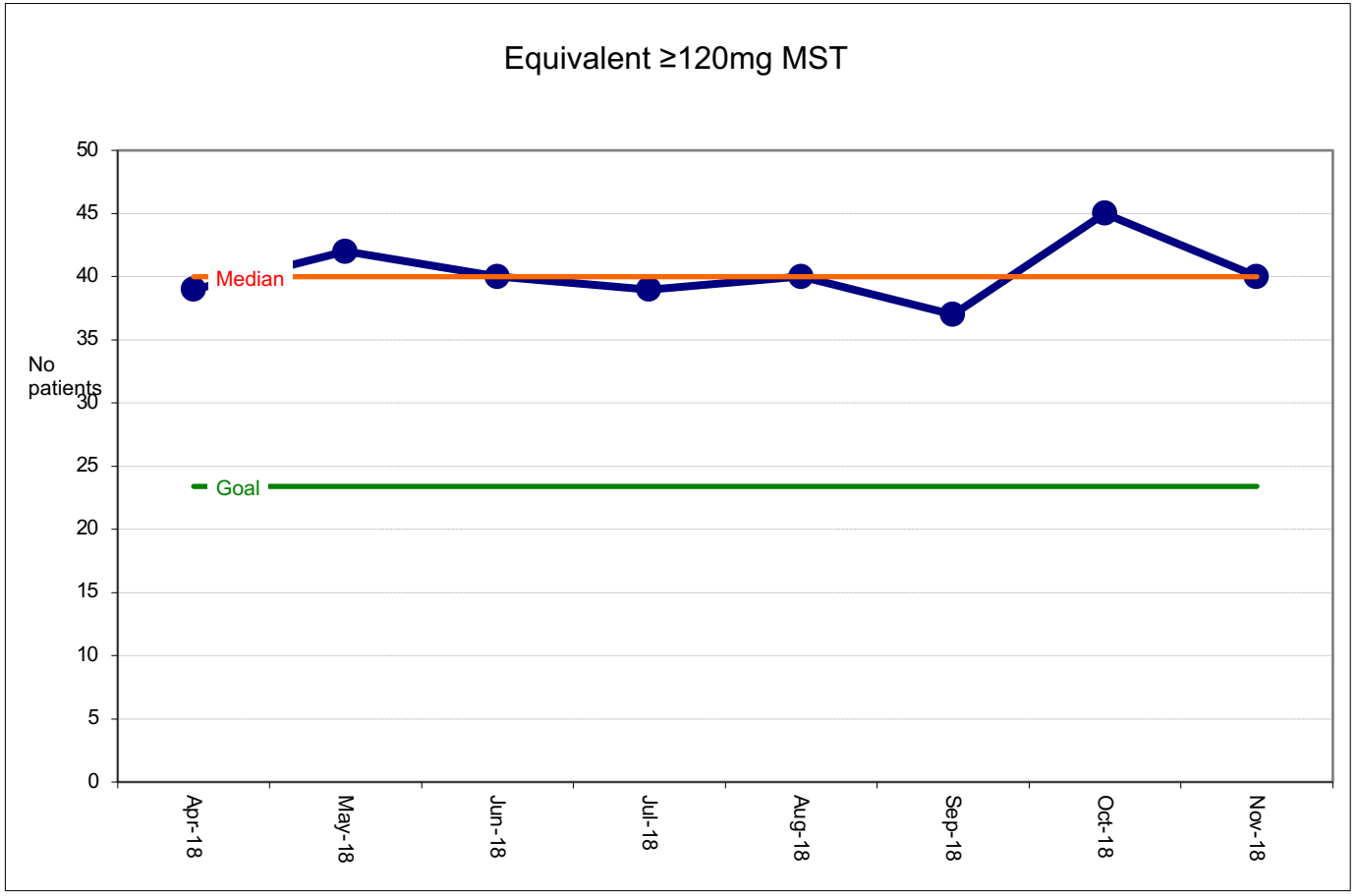
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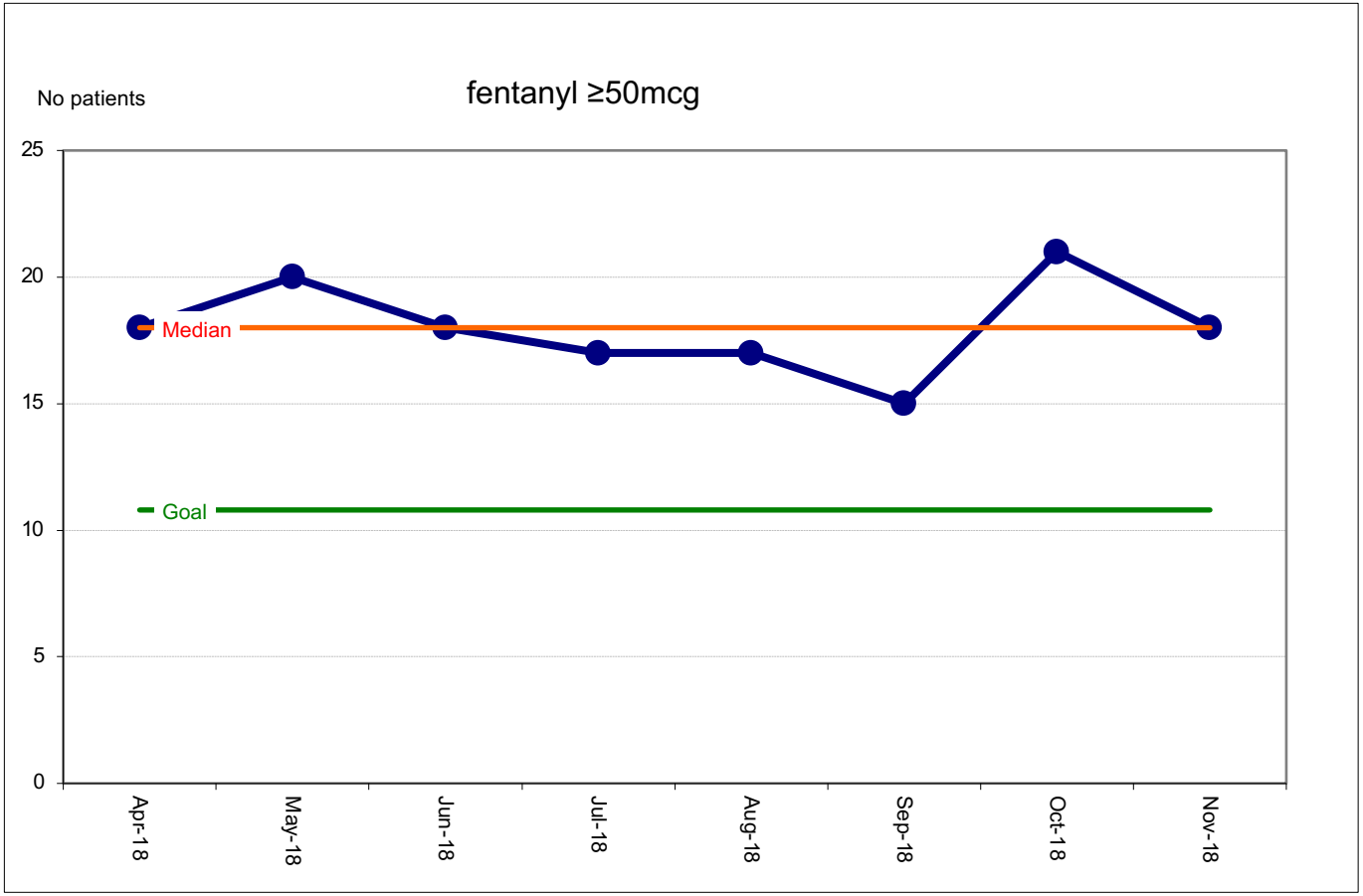
Why?
Reducing Opioid prescribing

Faculty of Pain Medicine advises that ***'the risk of harm increases substantially at doses above an oral morphine equivalent of 120mg/day but there is no increased benefit'***. Therefore, opioid doses ≥120mg morphine should not be prescribed for persistent non-malignant pain.

Gathering information- Baseline data



Gathering information- Baseline data

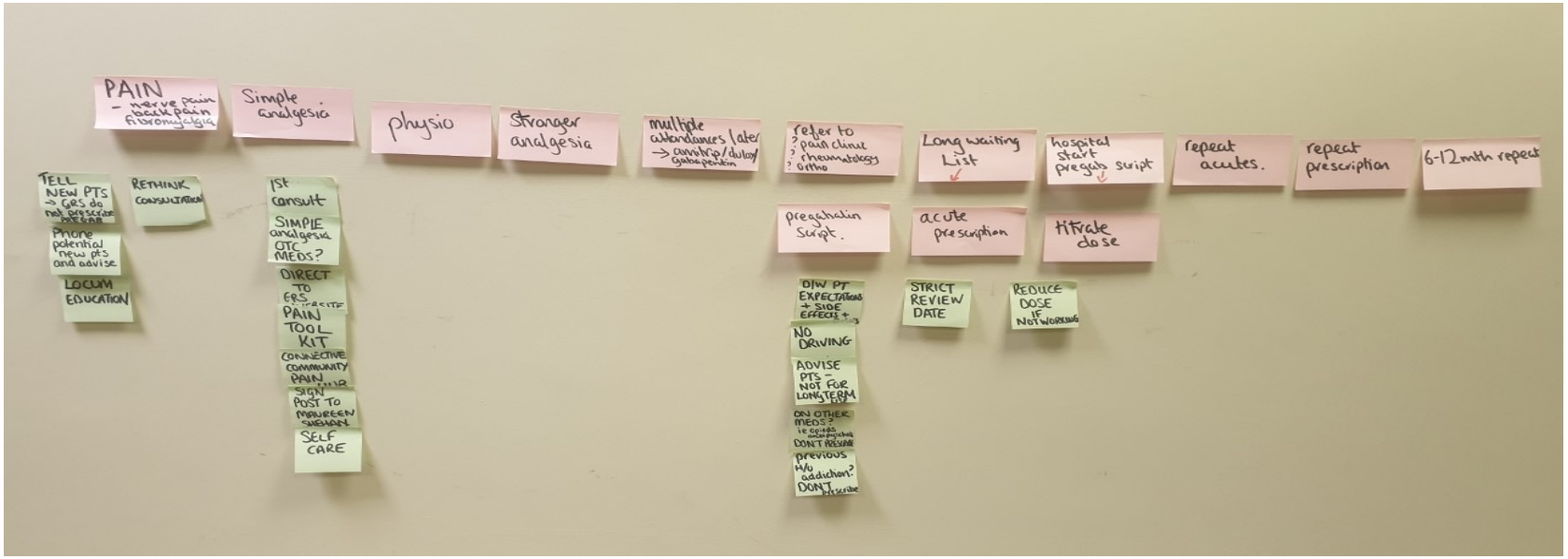


What are we trying to accomplish?

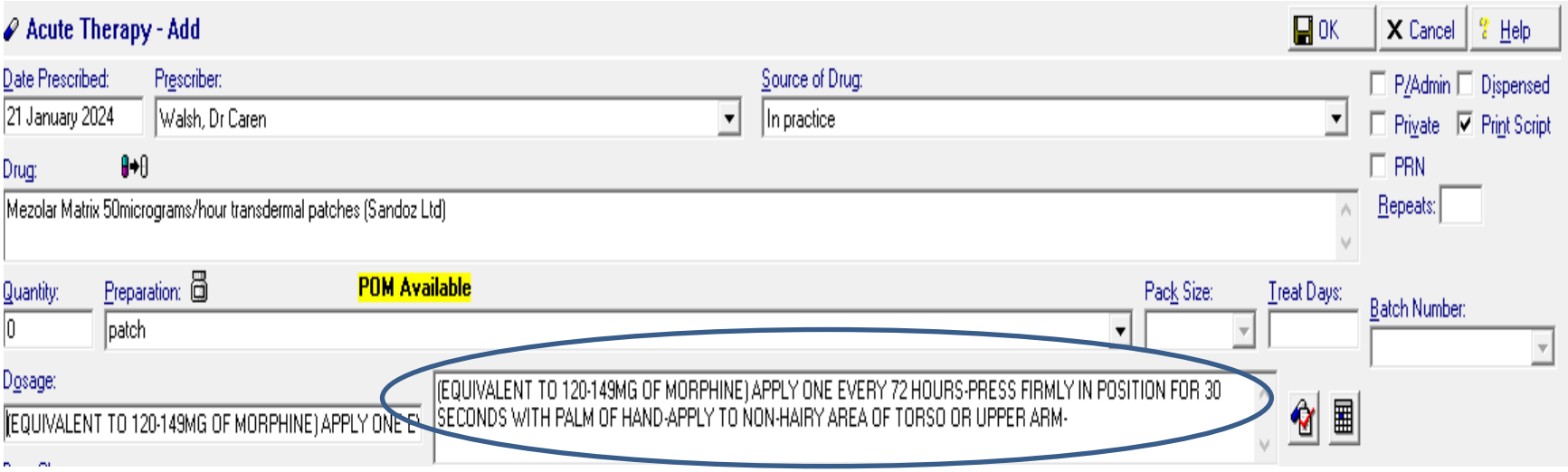
Aim: To reduce the number of patients prescribed Opioid doses ≥ 120mg morphine equivalent per Month in Grosvenor Road Surgery from 39 to 23 (40%reduction) by July 2019

What changes can we make that will result in improvement?

Process mapping with practice team



Change ideas



Remove from practice formulary

Decline secondary care requests- post operative/pain clinic/orthopaedics/rheumatology

New patients

Change in prescribing culture

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Grosvenor Road Surgery - Chronic Pain

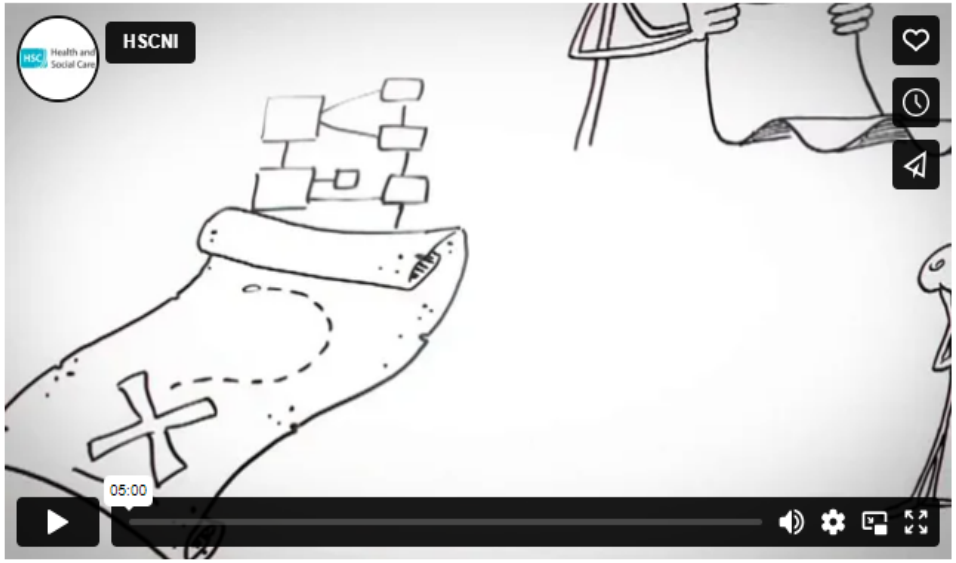
Chronic Pain

Chronic pain

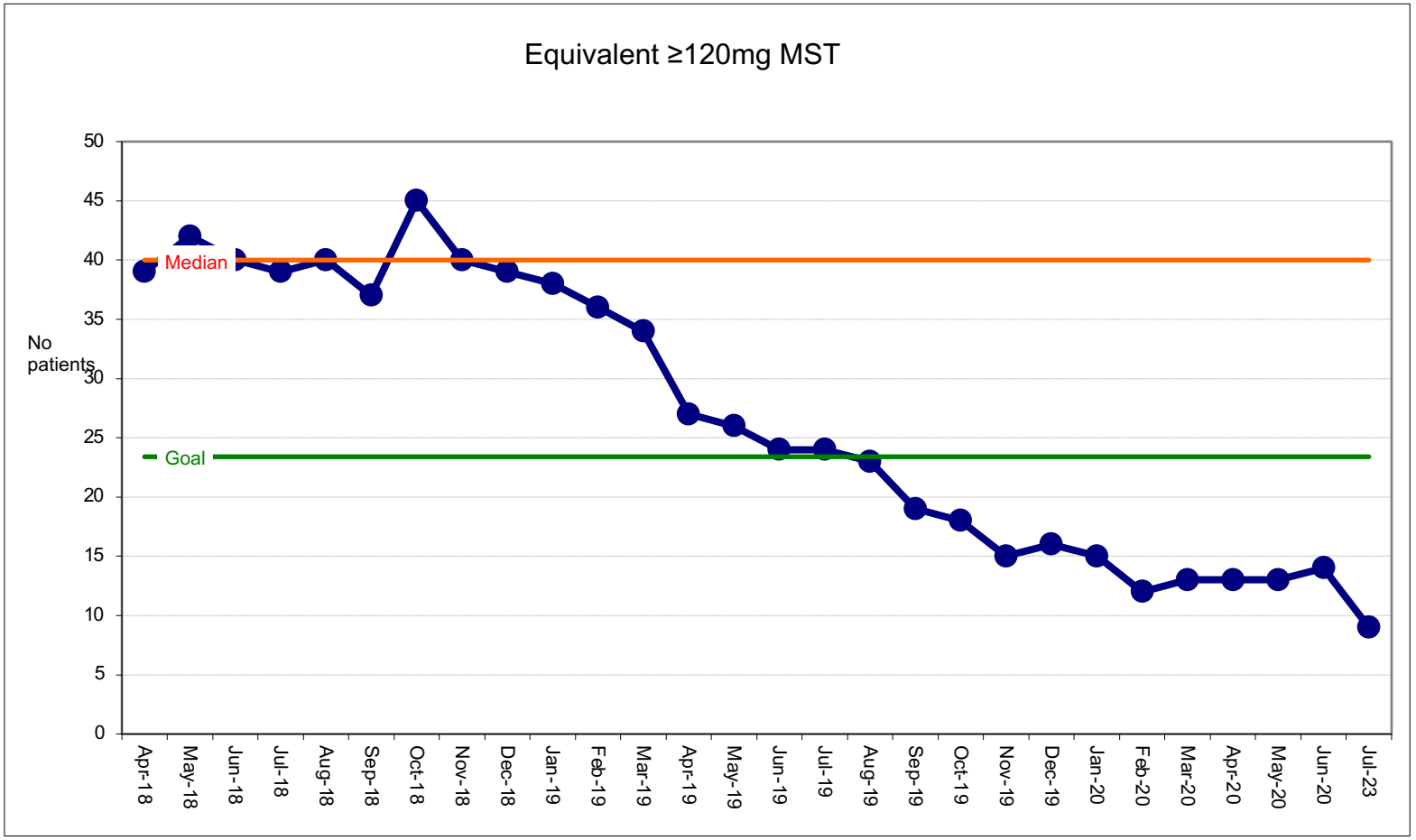
Everyone feels pain from time to time. when you cut your finger or pull a muscle, pain is your body's way of telling you something is wrong. Once you heal, the pain goes away.

Chronic pain is different. Your body keeps hurting weeks, months, or even years after the injury. Chronic pain is defined as pain that lasts for 3 to 6 months or more. Chronic pain can have a significant impact on your daily life, keeping you from doing the things you want or need to do. It can affect your self-esteem and make you feel angry, depressed, anxious and frustrated. The link between your emotions and pain can create a cycle. When you hurt, you are more likely to feel depressed. That can make your pain even worse.

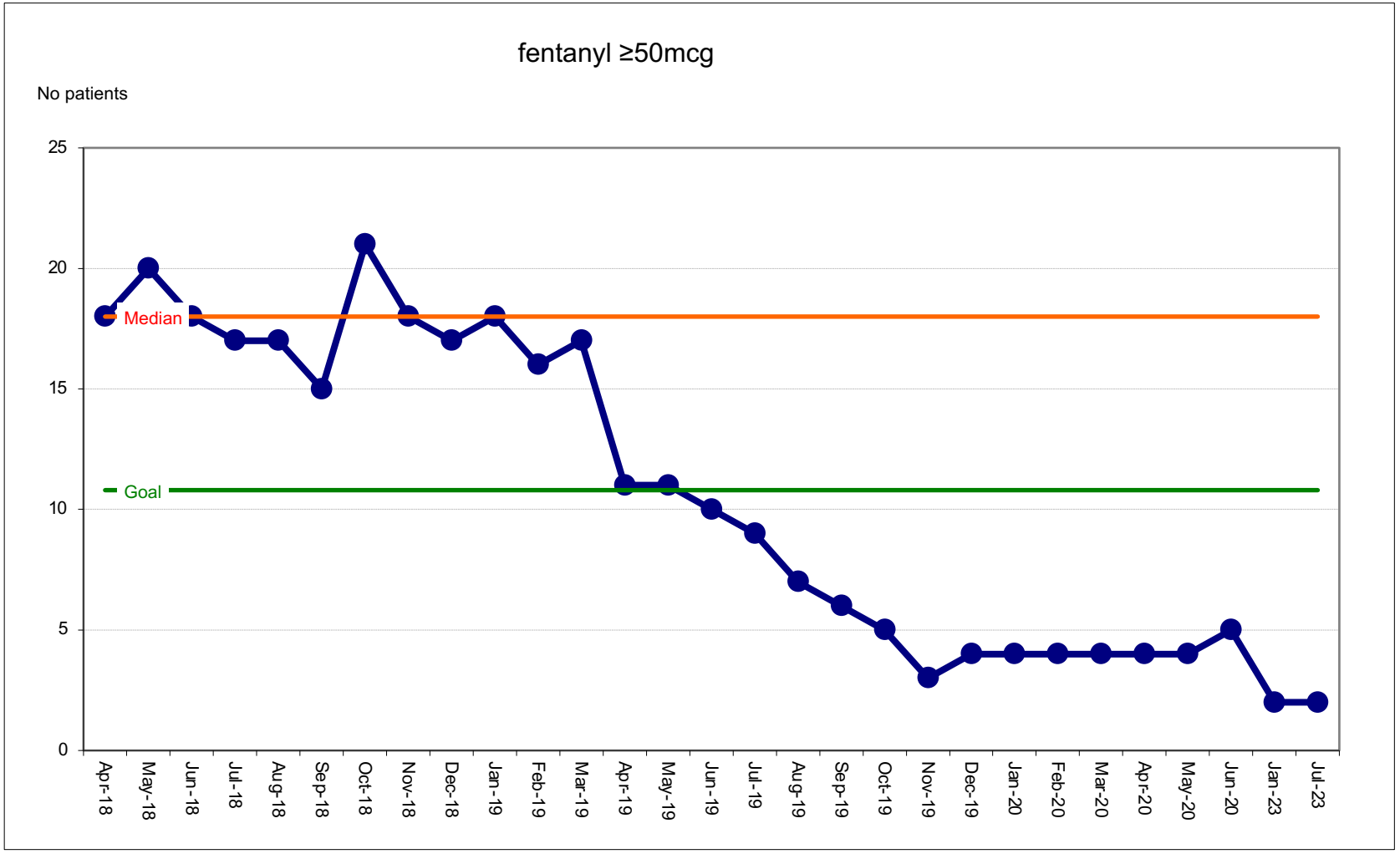
The short video below will help explain why chronic pain happens and what you can do to help the pain.

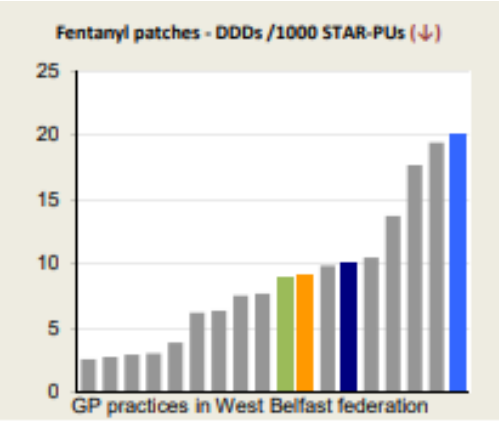


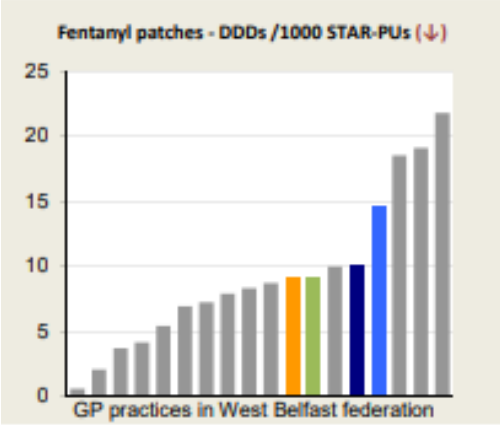
Number of patients prescribed ≥120mg equivalent Morphine Sulphate

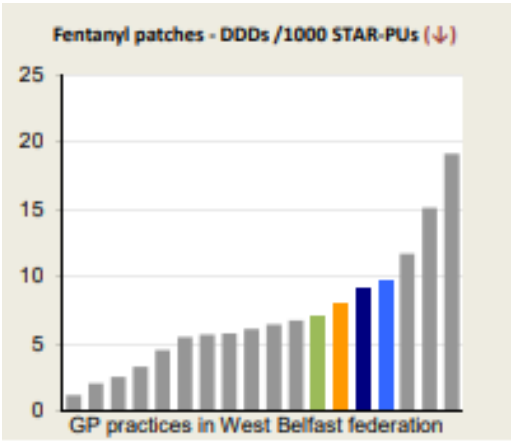


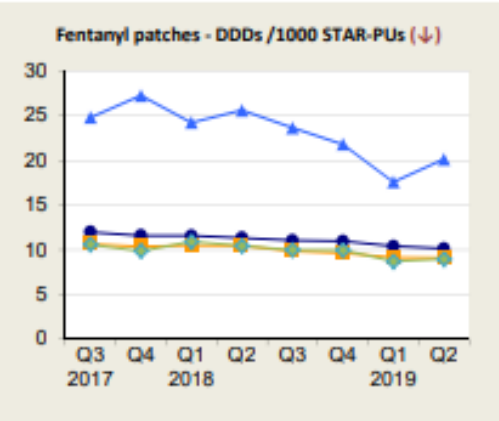
Number of patients prescribed ≥50mcg Fentanyl patch

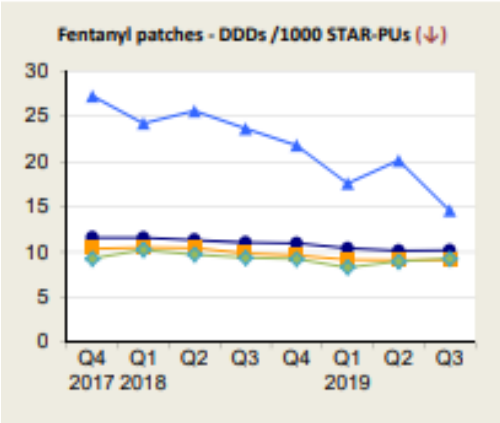


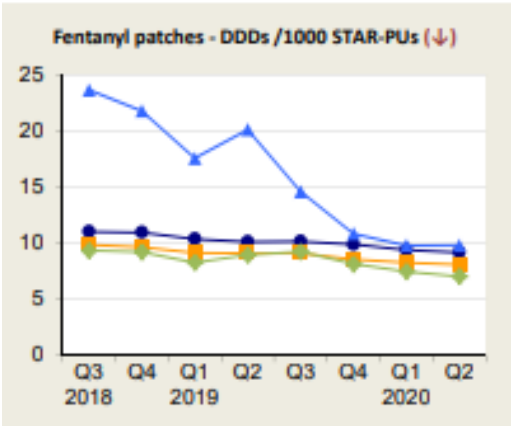




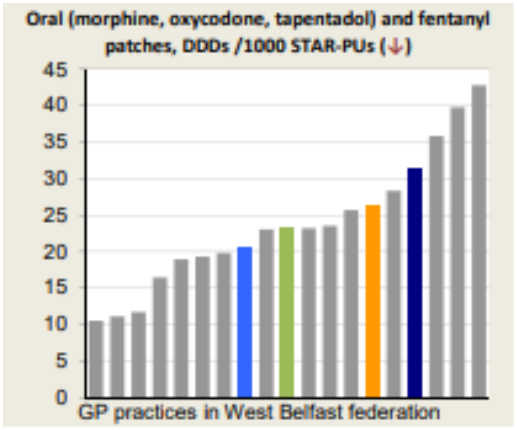


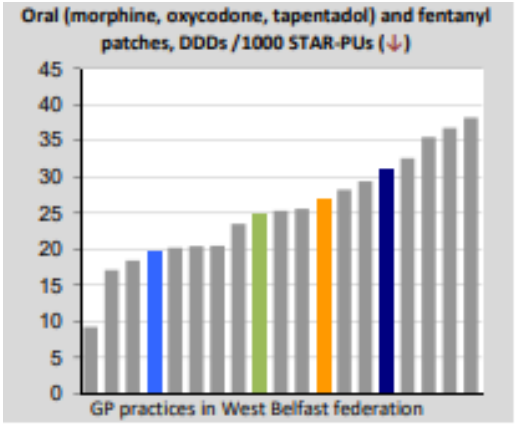


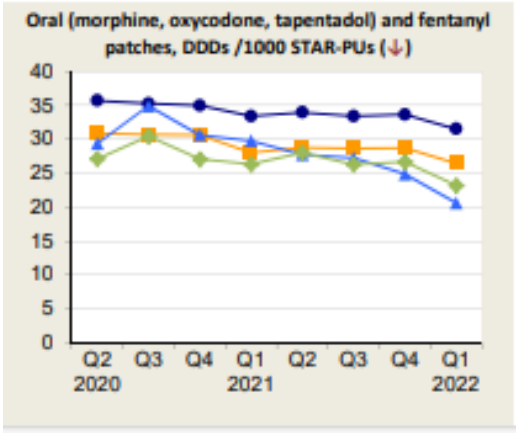


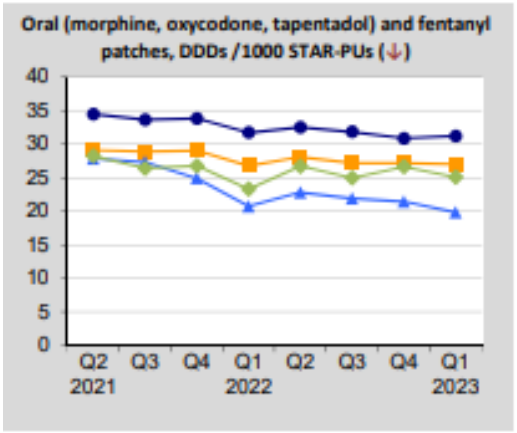


Strategic Planning and Performance Group


Oral (morphine, oxycodone, tapentadol) and fentanyl patches, DDDs /1000 STAR-PUs (↓)
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
GP practices in West Belfast federation


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Q2 2020
Q3
Q4
Q1 2021
Q2
Q3
Q4
Q1 2022


Oral (morphine, oxycodone, tapentadol) and fentanyl patches, DDDs /1000 STAR-PUs (↓)
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