

# Increasing Awareness and Reporting of the Yellow Card Scheme at St Helens and Knowsley

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## Introduction

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (STHK) in the financial year of 2016/17 reported 38 yellow cards to the MHRA [1]. With the knowledge that approximately 6.5% of hospital admissions may be caused by an adverse drug reaction [1] it is clear that as a Trust STHK severely underreported in this financial year. STHK consists of 887 beds, therefore there are likely to be 57 patients who are currently inpatients at this Trust due to an ADR at any one time. In 2017/18 the Medicines Information team at STHK underwent staff changes. A new Medicines Information Pharmacist was appointed in June 2017 and a new Medicines Information Technician was appointed in March 2018 and a large adverse drug reaction promotion project was launched. Prior to June 2017 STHK had not submitted a yellow card through Mi Databank.

## Aim

To increase yellow card reporting across STHK Trust and to utilise the adverse drug reaction reporting function in Mi Databank.

## Method

Several methods of promotion were conducted:

1. Holding a Yellow Card Promotion Stand in Whiston Hospital (April 2018).
2. Delivering presentations about the scheme to link nurses, ward staff, doctors and colleagues within Pharmacy using interactive tasks, such as word searches and quizzes.
3. Receiving adverse drug reaction tagged incident reports into Medicines Information.
4. Incorporating a hyperlinked yellow card logo into e-mail signature(s).
5. Utilising Mi Databank to report yellow cards for the first time in STHK history.

## Results

In 2017/18 STHK reported 95 yellow cards to the MHRA [1]. The promotional tasks above helped STHK to increase reporting rates by 2.5 fold from 2016/17. Out of 95 reports, 46 reports (48.4%) were submitted with the support of Medicines Information. In 2016/17 STHK were placed 17/27 of North West Trusts for yellow card reporting rates. In 2017/18 STHK were placed between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> out of 27 North West Trusts throughout the financial quarters [1].

## Secondary Care Trust reporting 2016/17

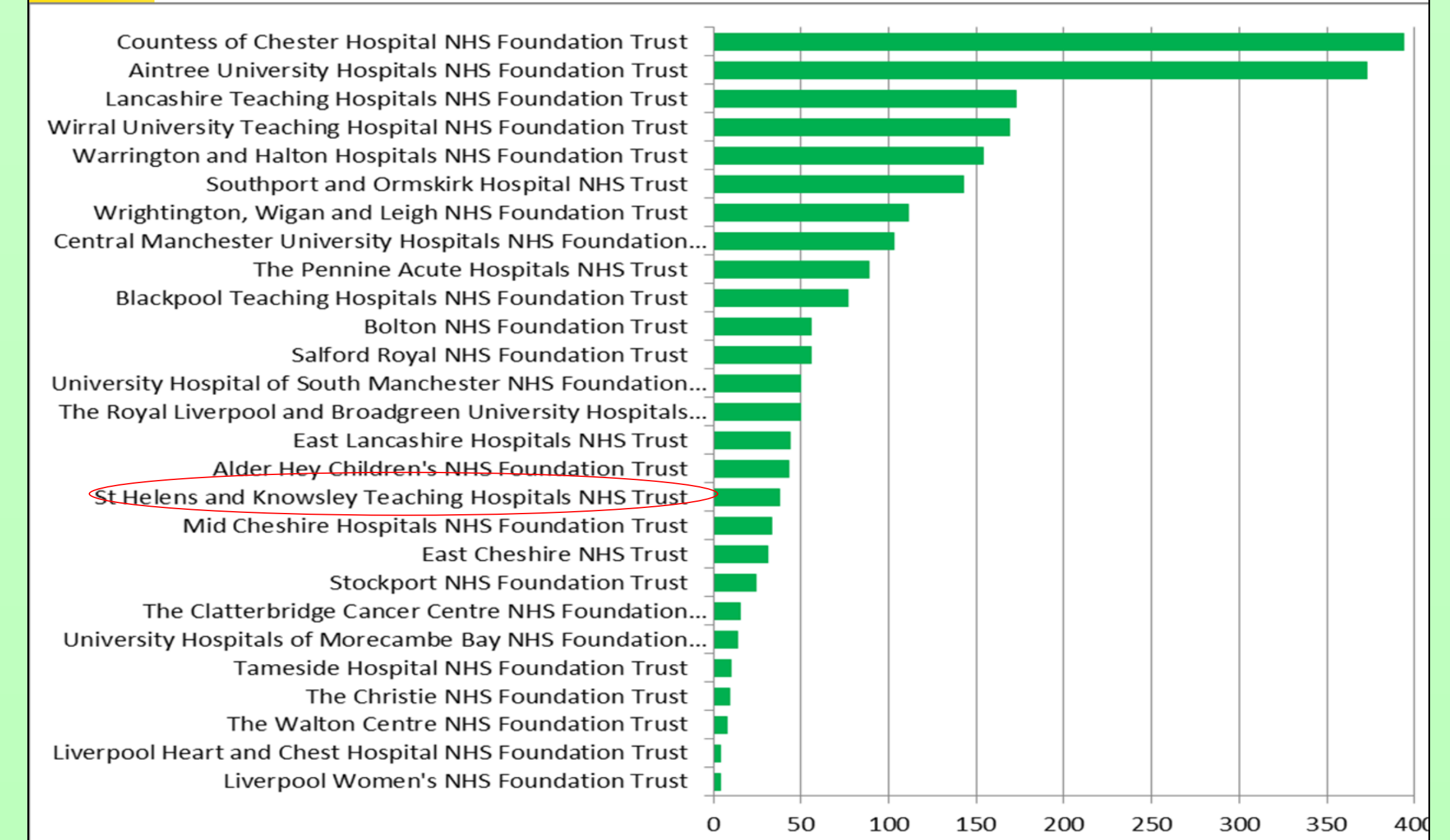


Figure 1. Number of yellow cards submitted by North West in Trusts in 2016/17 [1].

## Secondary Care Trust reporting 2016/17 Reporter type

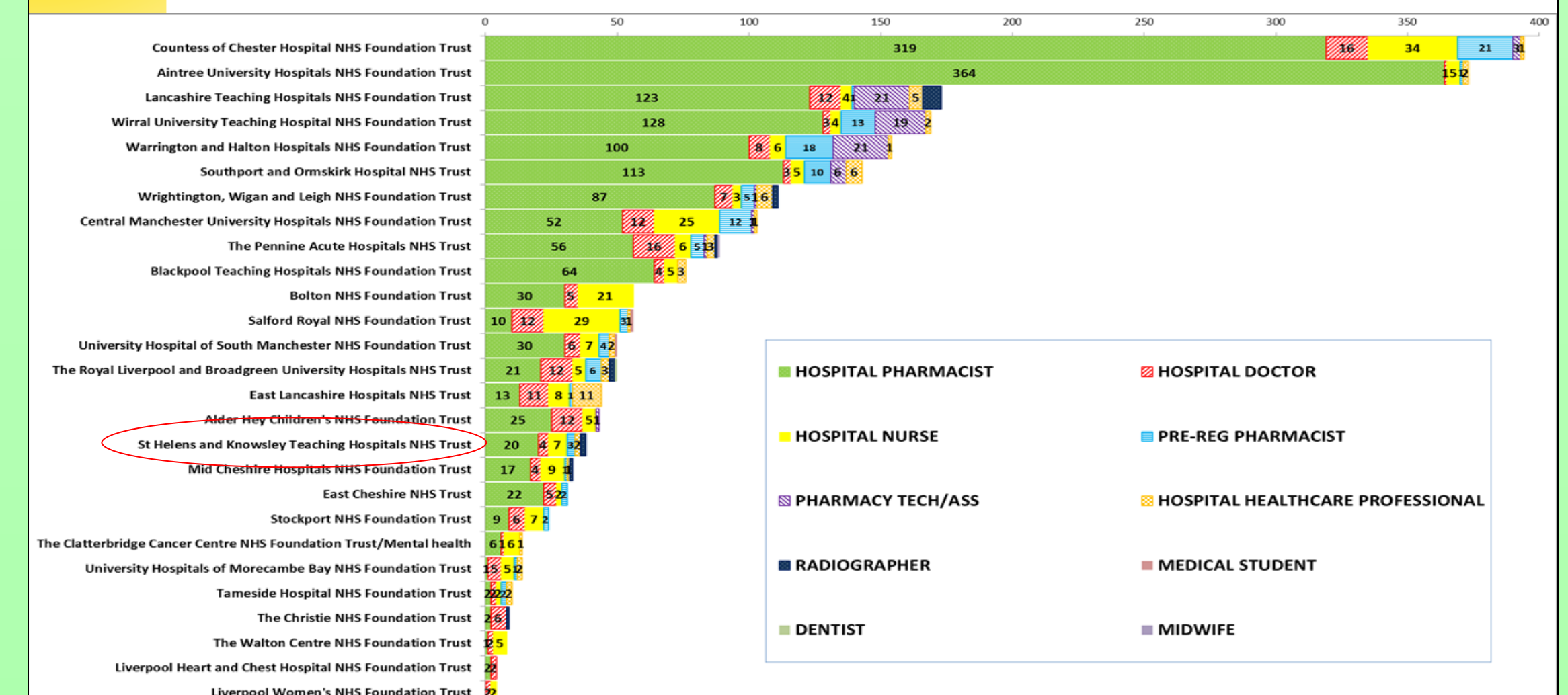


Figure 2. Number of yellow cards submitted by enquirer type in 2016/17 in the North West [1].

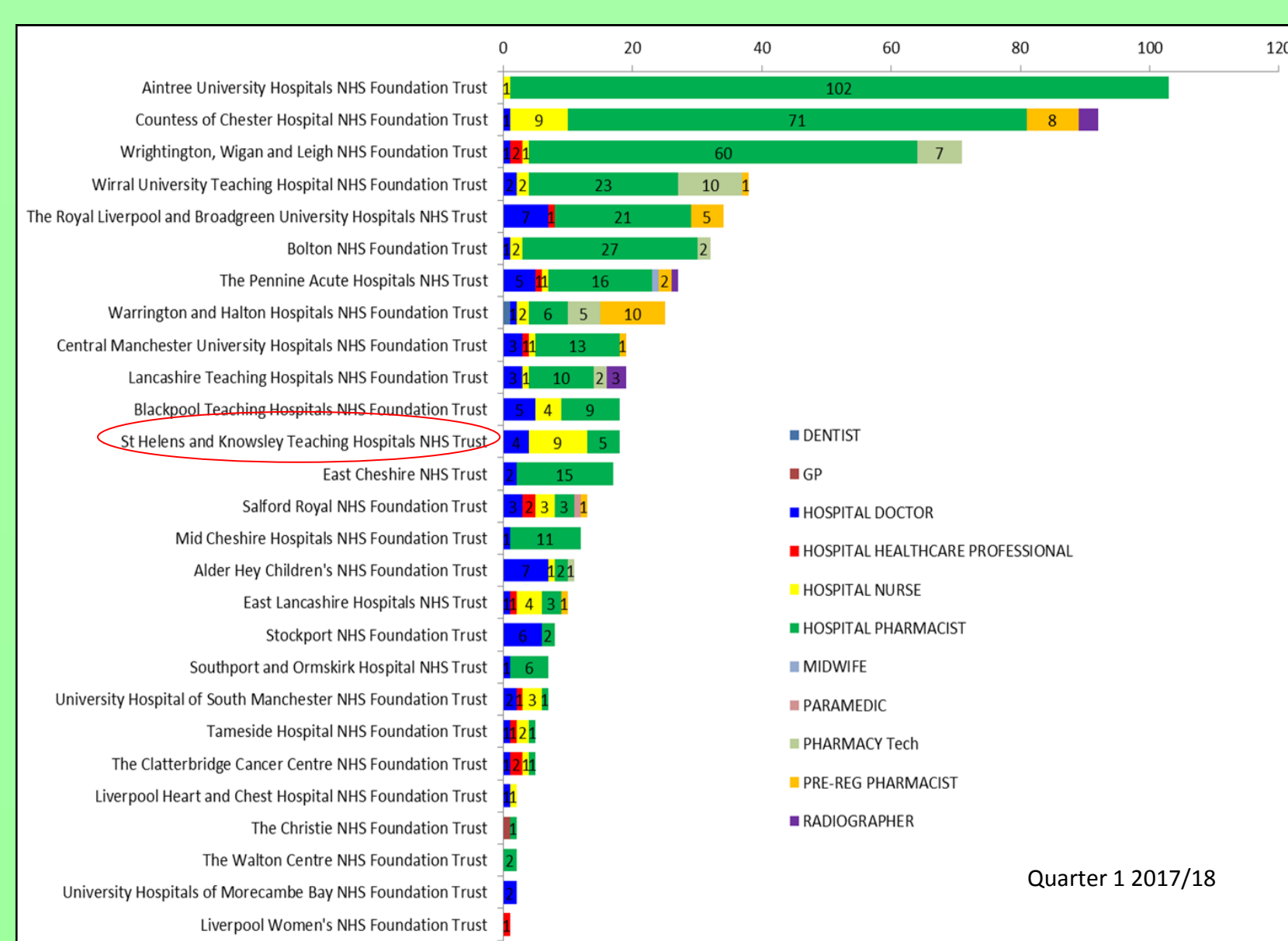


Figure 3 North West Secondary Care Trust reporting April - June 2017 [1]

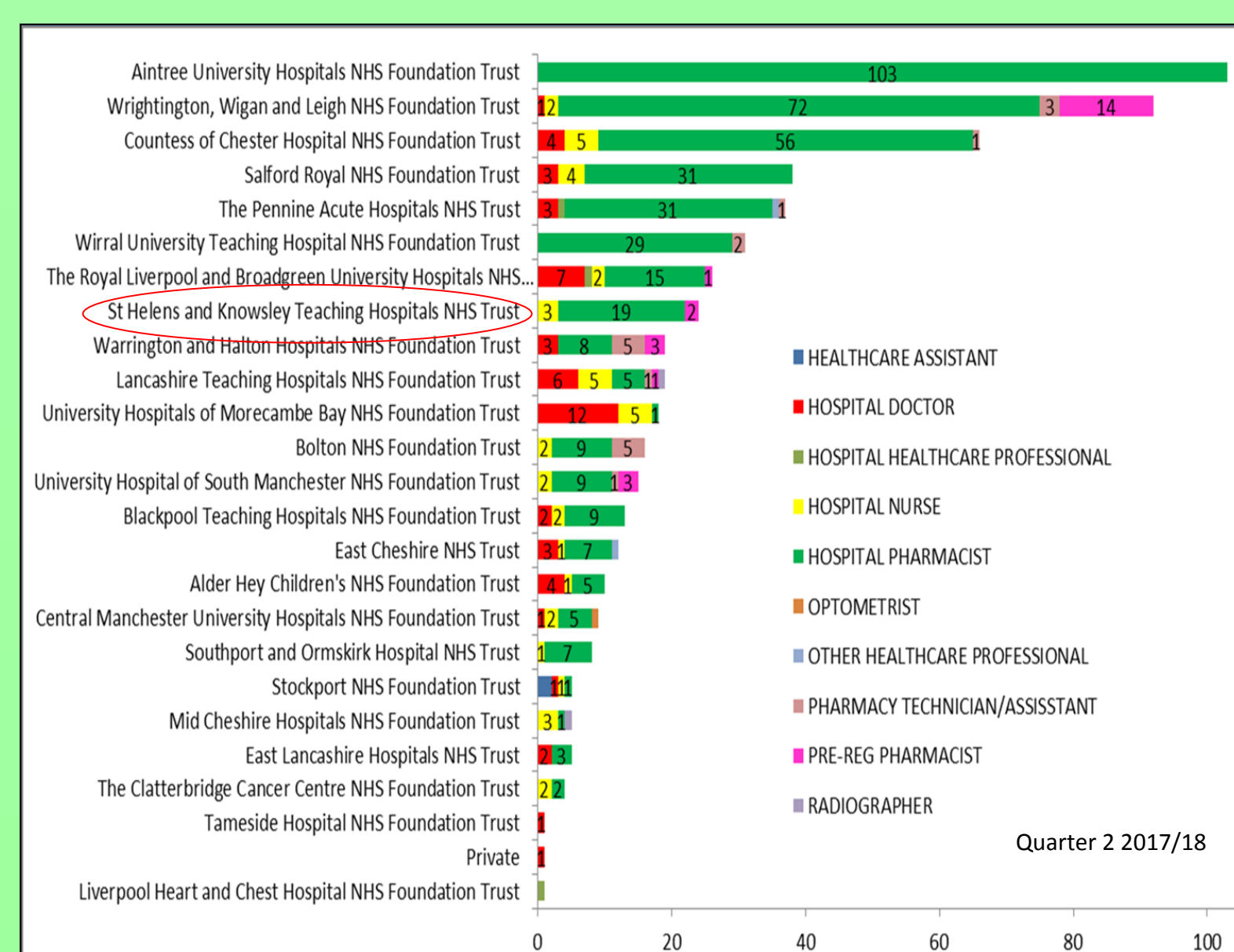


Figure 4 North West Secondary Care Trust reporting July - September 2017 [1]

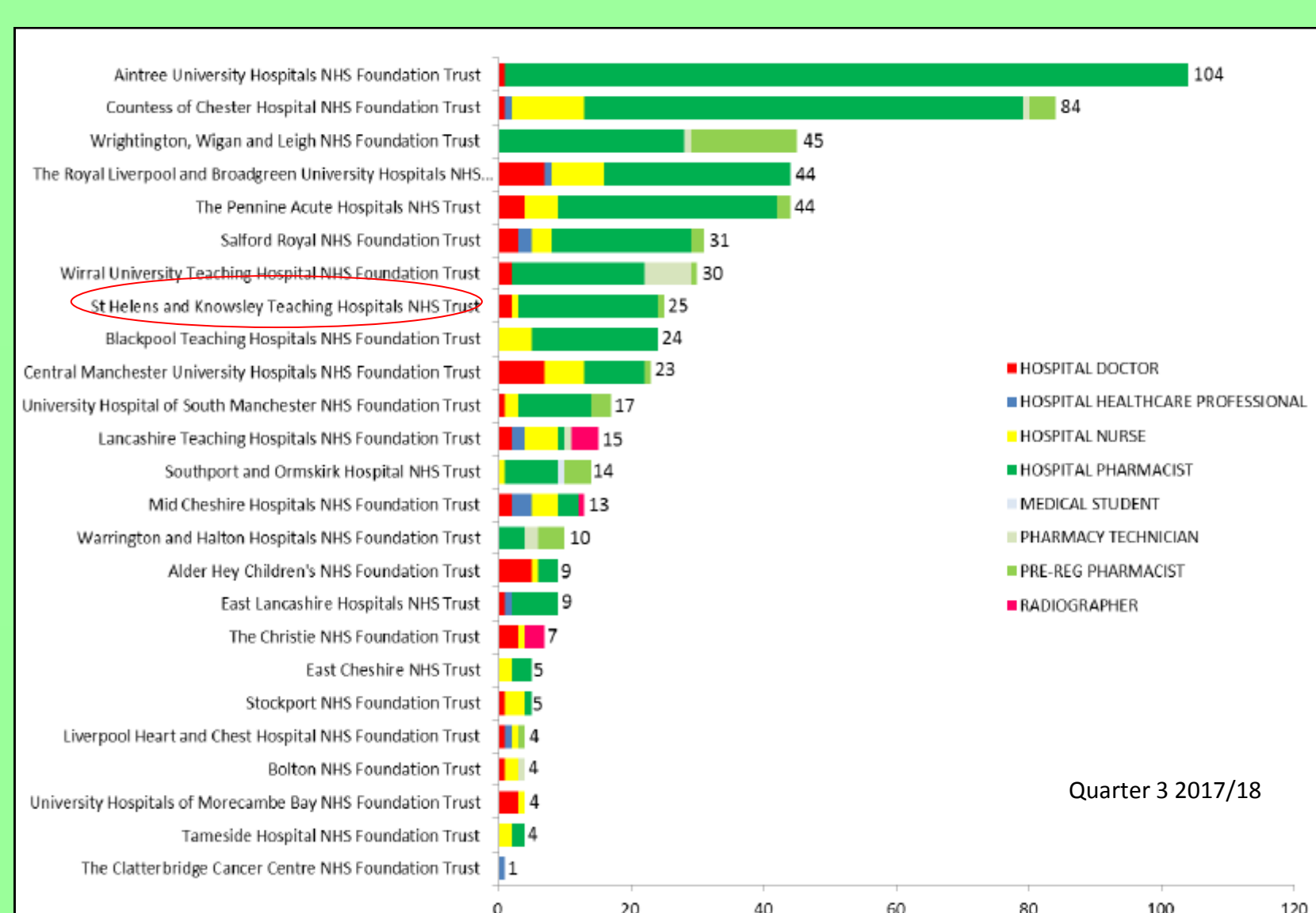


Figure 5 North West Secondary Care Trust reporting October - December 2017 [1]

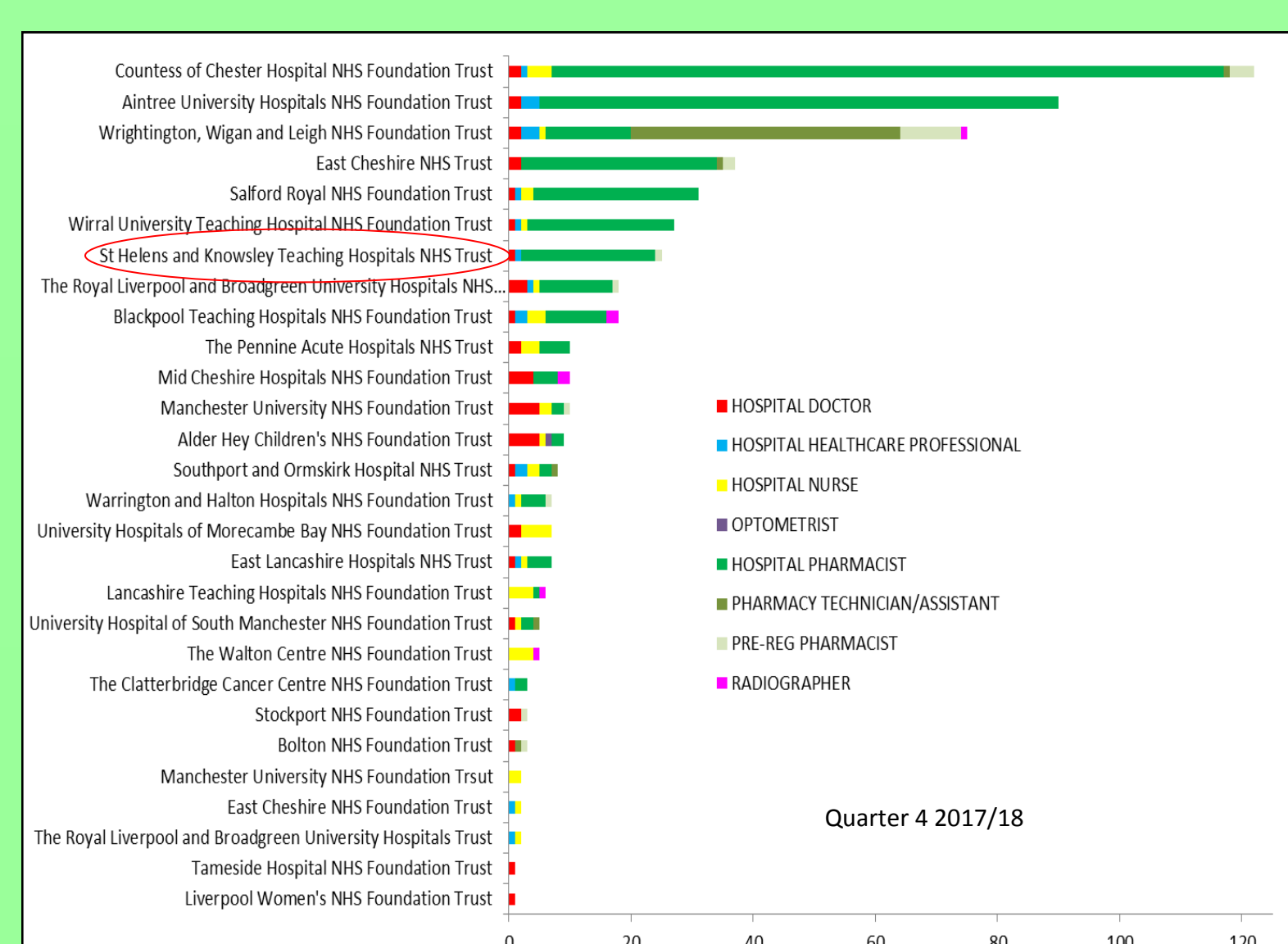


Figure 6 North West Secondary Care Trust reporting January - March 2018 [1]

## Discussion

Employees and patients of STHK are now aware of the Yellow Card scheme and the various ways to submit these reports. Staff members at STHK are motivated to optimise patient safety through adverse drug reaction reporting. To continue this good work Medicines Information plan to continue to promote adverse drug reaction reporting via the following:

- Hold an annual promotional stand, deliver education sessions, encourage pre-registration pharmacists to take part in a Yellow Card champion competition, encourage ward based technicians to identify and report ADRs.

STHK has come a long way from under reporting. It is important that Medicines Information continues to motivate colleagues to consider whether patients are experiencing adverse drug reactions.

Reference— 1. North West Regional Medicines Information Centre. Randall, C. July 2018.