

# Perth & Kinross - General Practice Nursing Week of Care Audit 2018

## Aims

As outlined in the 2018 General Medical Services (GMS) contract<sup>1</sup>, the responsibility for the following activities will be transferred from GP practices to Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)-led Community Treatment and Care (CT&C) services: Phlebotomy, Chronic Disease Management and Related Data Collection, Ear Syringing, Suture Removal, and Management of Minor Injuries and Wound Dressings. This project aimed to determine the current demand for these activities within General Medical (GP) practices across Perth & Kinross (P&K), to ultimately inform the design and development of HSCP-led CT&C services throughout the area.

## Methods

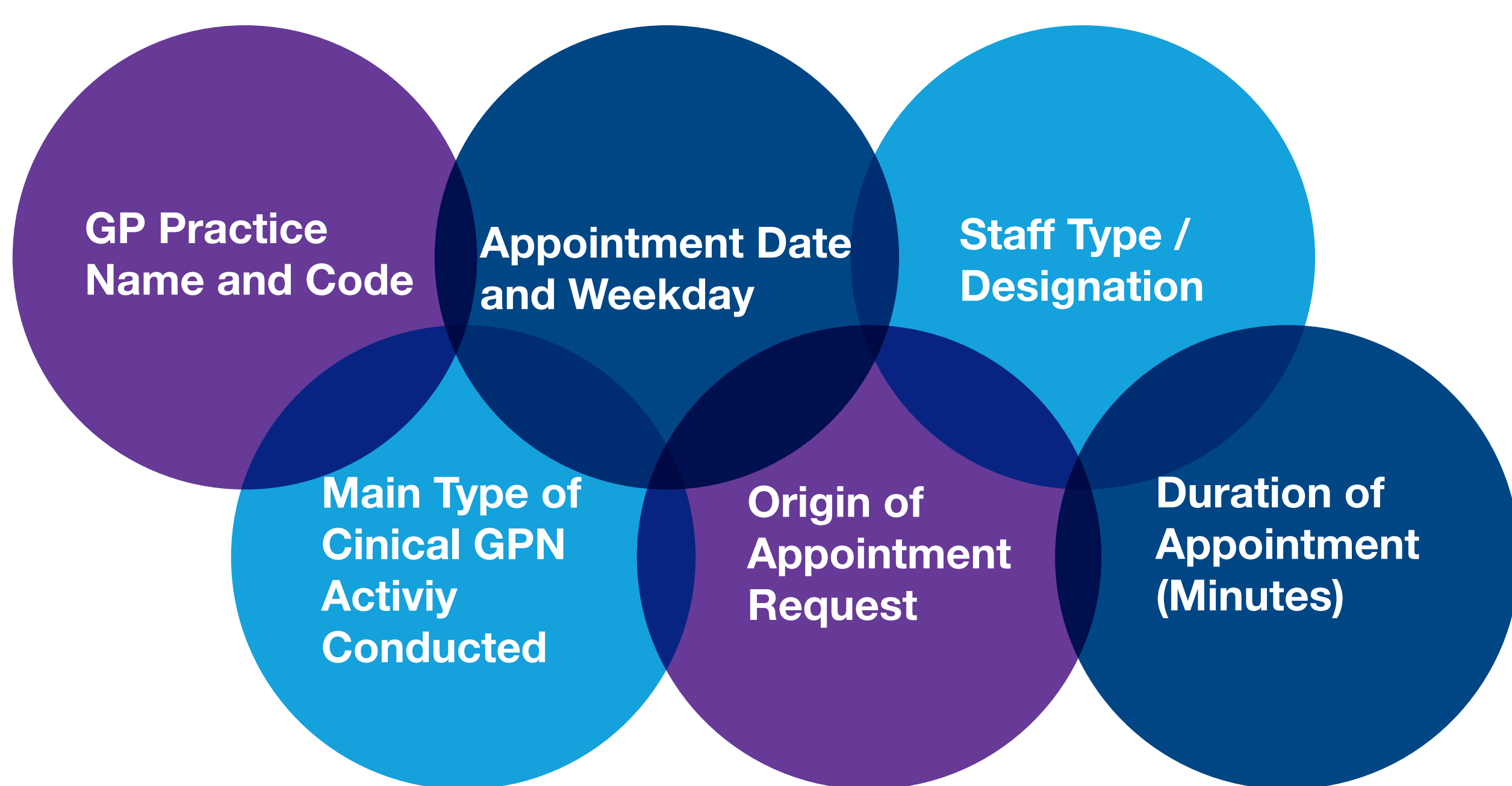
All GPN staff (Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Practitioners, Practice Nurses, Healthcare Assistants and Phlebotomists) working across GP practices in P&K were invited to participate in this audit.

Data was recorded manually by GPNs over the course of one working week in summer 2018 using a bespoke data collection tool (Figure 1).

Figure 1: GPN Week of Care Audit Data Collection Tool

This tool was developed by the Local Intelligence Support Team (LIST) in collaboration with P&K Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP). The tool was piloted in one GP practice prior to the full audit to ensure that data collection worked as intended. Practices were given some flexibility over which week they conducted the audit.

The following information was captured during the audit:



Descriptive analysis of the data was performed at GP practice, cluster and HSCP-level. Cross-tabulation of the data was conducted where appropriate.

## Outcomes and Results

A total of 87 GPNs participated in this audit: 53 Practice Nurses, 24 Healthcare Assistants, 4 Phlebotomists, 4 Advanced Nurse Practitioners and 2 Nurse Practitioners.

5,006 GPN consultations were recorded across all GP practices in P&K during the audit; a weekly consultation rate of 34.3 consultations per 1,000 practice population. 4,340 clinical GPN activities originated from within GP practices (86.7%) and 442 originated from secondary care (8.8%). The origin of 224 nursing activities was not specified (4.5%).

CT&C activities were conducted during 3,192 GPN consultations (63.8% of all GPN consultations recorded across P&K during the audit). The total number and proportion, as well as the total weekly duration (in hours) of CT&C activities across P&K are listed in Table 1.

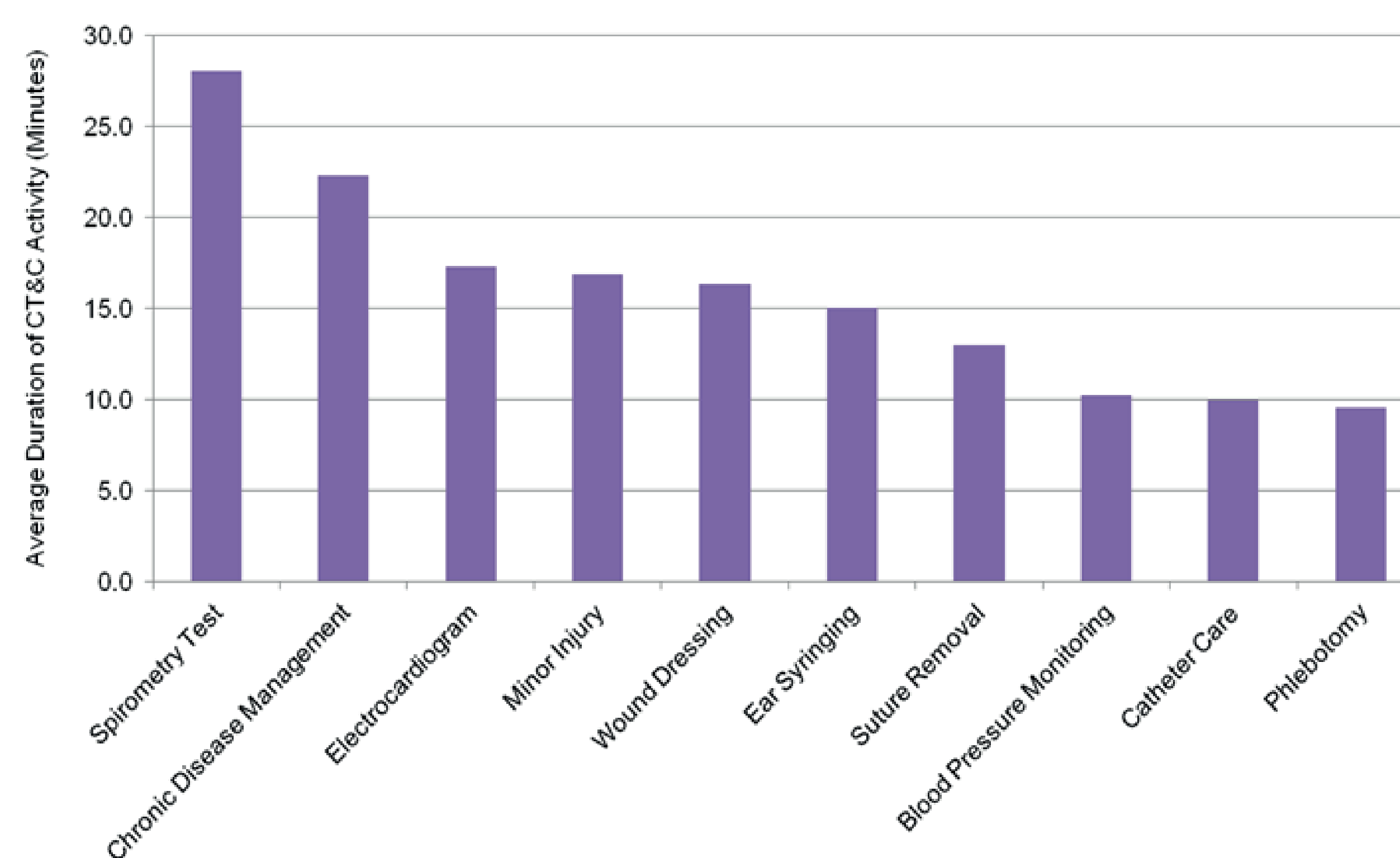
Table 1: Count and Total Weekly Duration (Hours) of CT&C Activities across GP Practices in Perth & Kinross

CT&C Activity	Count	Proportion (% total)	Total Weekly Duration (Hours)
Phlebotomy	1,617	50.7	258.2
Chronic Disease Management	588	18.4	218.2
Wound Dressing	446	14.0	121.5
Blood Pressure Monitoring	187	5.9	31.8
Ear Syringing	137	4.3	34.4
Electrocardiogram	77	2.4	22.2
Suture Removal	63	2.0	13.6
Minor Injury	47	1.5	13.2
Spirometry Test	28	0.9	13.1
Catheter Care	2	0.1	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,192</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>726.5</b>

If the responsibility for these activities were shifted from GP practices to HSCP-led CT&C services, 726.5 hours of GPN staff time could potentially be supported by the partnership per working week across P&K, thus freeing up GPN time to support GPs in their role as expert medical generalists.

Figure 2 illustrates the average appointment duration (in minutes) of CT&C activities in GP practices in P&K.

Figure 2: Average Appointment Duration (Minutes) of CT&C Activities across GP Practices in Perth & Kinross



## Conclusions

The data collected during this project are being used to understand current demand for CT&C activities across GP practices in P&K and to determine the future workforce required to deliver CT&C services locally. The data will also help inform the reconfiguration of the GPN workforce within GP practices to help free up GP time, thus allowing them to focus on their role as expert medical generalists.

## References

The Scottish Government - 2018 General Medical Services Contract in Scotland. November 2017. ISBN: 978-1-78851-347-0.

## Acknowledgements

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- Dr Hamish Dougall, Clinical Director, P&K HSCP.
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- Mr Chris Jolly, Primary Care Programme Manager, Perth & Kinross Health and Social Care Partnership.
- Mr Kerry Napier, Practice Manager, Craigvinean Surgery.