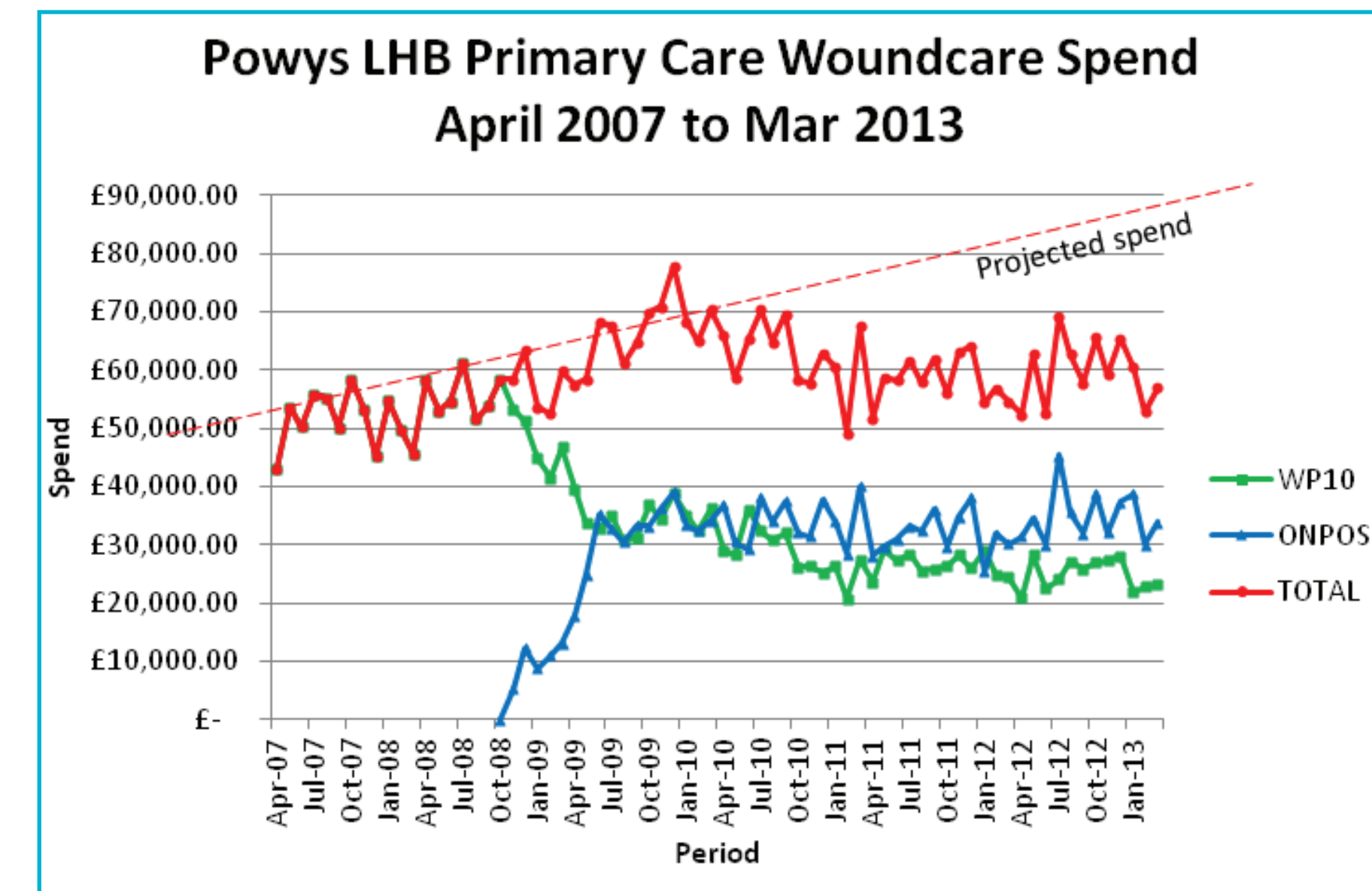


Reviewing the impact of Online Non Prescription supply of wound care dressings - ONPOS

Introduction

All care offered by Powys Health Board is community based consisting of nine community hospitals, 15 district nursing teams and a team of specialist nurses. ONPOS, the online non prescription ordering system for wound care products used by community based nurse teams has been in place since November 2008. All health board nursing homes were added to the ONPOS system in 2012. Prior to 2008, the costs of wound care products and the number of individual products being prescribed were escalating despite there being a wound care formulary in place. Increasing workload, patient numbers and wound complexity is thought to be a major factor in the extrapolated projected wound care spend in figure 1.

Figure 1: Extrapolated wound care spend.



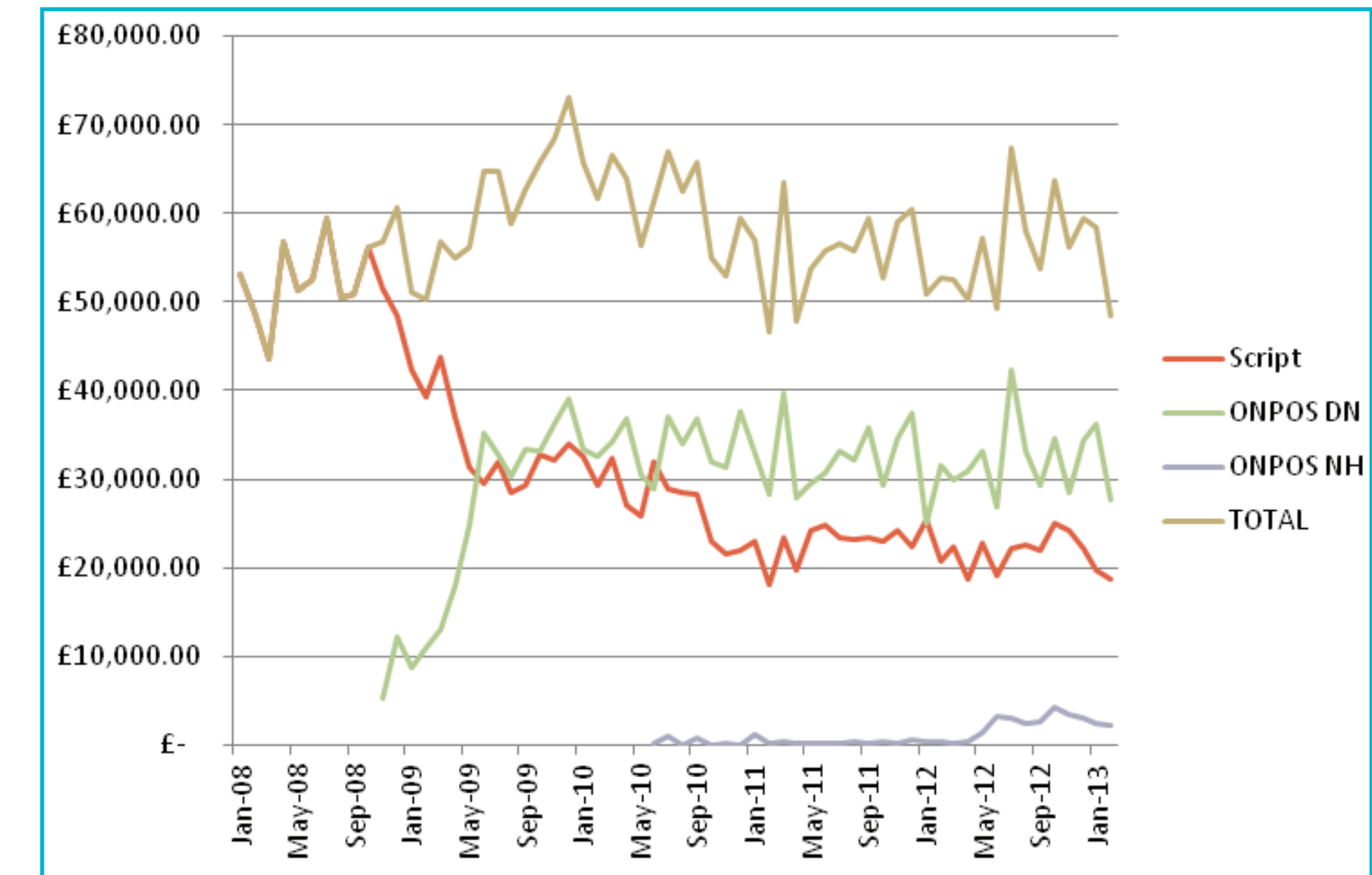
Unlike prescribed dressings, wound care products sourced through ONPOS can be used on any patient within the team's caseload. It was envisaged that the ONPOS system would lead to cost savings by rationalising the choice available to community nurses and having a central store within the base minimising the need to order 'just in case' extra dressings over holiday periods for example. This poster identifies the critical success factors in introducing and implementing an online non prescription service across the health board through nurse education and formulary rationalisation as well as community

pharmacist, wholesaler and industry engagement.

The ONPOS system enables the tissue viability and medicines management teams to easily monitor expenditure and to identify local trends around product usage across the district nursing teams and nursing homes.

Discussion

Figure 2: Powys Wound Care expenditure between Jan 2008 and Jan 2013.



The implementation of a non prescription system does not come without its challenges! Indeed early on there was a small spike in spend whilst a base stock was introduced and the new processes bedded into practise.

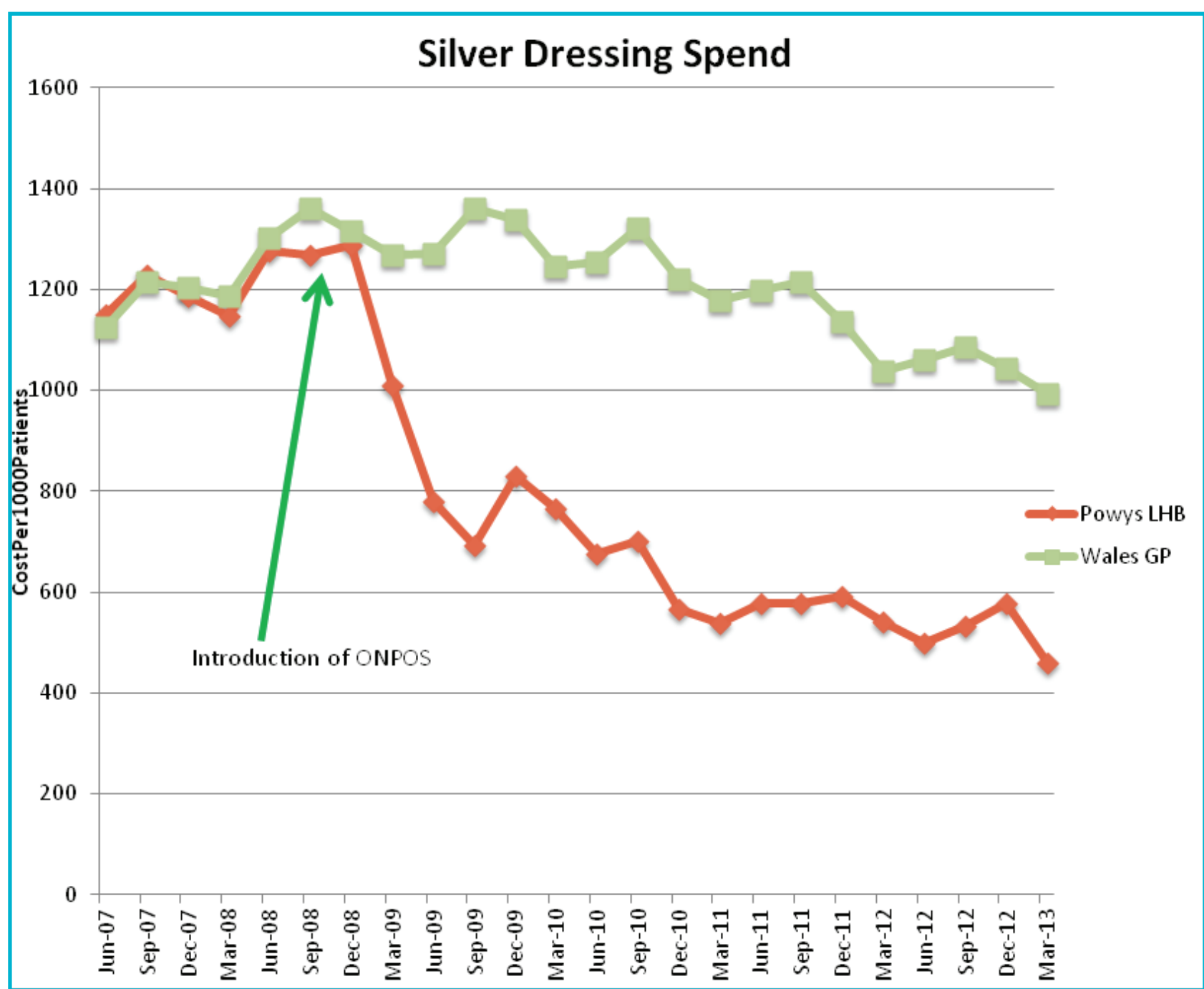
A key catalyst to ensuring ONPOS delivered efficiency savings and an increased quality of service were a series of awareness meetings. These were held to explain why the ONPOS system was being adopted. Staff were reminded that nurses are always accountable for their practice and that making a decision to use a product from a centrally held store is as accountable as writing a prescription.

The ONPOS system can also be seen as a time saving initiative for busy community nurses who can access the required front-line dressings without writing a prescription.

Despite the extra information ONPOS provided and engaging with product manufacturers to ensure the appropriate use of products and wound infection identification in particular, the overall usage of Silicone and Silver products remained higher than needed.

The eventual decision was made to remove the silver products from ONPOS, although they remained within the formulary.

Reviewing what happened to our silver costs following removal from ONPOS, we see an instant decline. What we have seen is nurses using the less expensive inadine or honey based products (Figure 3).



Conclusion

ONPOS has been a key part of the health board's efforts to improve the management of wound care. Since its implementation, ONPOS has been highly successful in supporting the implementation of the dressings' formulary and the reporting tools have been useful in identifying variations in practice across the region.

After an initial small increase in our spend, now four years after implementation we are spending, approximately the same amount as was the case in 2008/09. Despite the additional expense of VAT associated with dressings sourced via ONPOS and an increasing workload in terms of patient numbers and wound complexity, Powys LHB has stabilised its wound care expenditure with an estimated monthly saving of **£30,000** from extrapolated spending patterns since 2007.

The non-prescription model has made a huge difference to the district nurses in particular, with the variety of dressings in use decreasing significantly and formulary compliance up to around 95%. Dressings are readily available for immediate access, patient waste has been reduced and "grey stock" is no longer an issue. Pharmacies have benefitted too from a simpler, less time consuming assembly process and a reduction in their stock holding burden. Regular meetings between medicines management and the ONPOS support team have helped greatly in continually reviewing and improving the efficiency of the system, and Coloplast have always been keen to provide additional assistance including wound care audits and quality support material for nurses and care homes.

References

Campbell M (1999) The management of prescribing in Humphries JL & Green J eds Nurse Prescribing. Macmillan Press Ltd. Hampshire pp74