

Outpatient Hysteroscopy Initiative: Improving Timely Access for Abnormal Uterine Bleeding Treatment



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Lessons Learned

Transitioning care to treat abnormal uterine bleeding to an outpatient setting provides operational efficiency, cost savings and timely patient care.

Description

Hysteroscopy is a minimally invasive procedure to treat abnormal uterine bleeding. A hysteroscope is inserted into the vagina to examine and surgically manage the cervix and uterus. Abnormal uterine bleeding affects 30% of women. Time to diagnosis and treatment remain as major systemic barriers for women's health.

Conventional practice prolongs surgical management as it requires multiple consults prior to diagnosis, which usually involves hysteroscopy. Once diagnosed, surgical management requires additional consults prior to an operative hysteroscopy. Bringing women's health to the forefront, Humber River Hospital (HRH) established an Outpatient Hysteroscopy Suite to provide initial consult to surgical management within one visit.

Actions Taken

- Data and chart reviews from 5000 patient visits.
- Business case proposal made to senior leadership.
- Planned project in partnership with physicians, senior leadership, and administration
- Launched the Outpatient Hysteroscopy Suite in September 2021.

Summary of Results

Data and chart reviews indicated a reduction in:

- Time to treatment by 74.5 days and costs by \$1331.90.
- Time to diagnosis by 31.8 days and costs by \$107.70.

The HRH business case analysis indicated:

- \$53 greater per patient in cost differential due to added consumables.
- \$12,631.88 favorable savings due to cost avoidance from bypassing PACU/SDC resources.
- 100 operating room hours released for additional cases.

Future goals for the hysteroscopy outpatient suite is to expand case type, centralize referrals, improve patient satisfaction, and increase volumes.

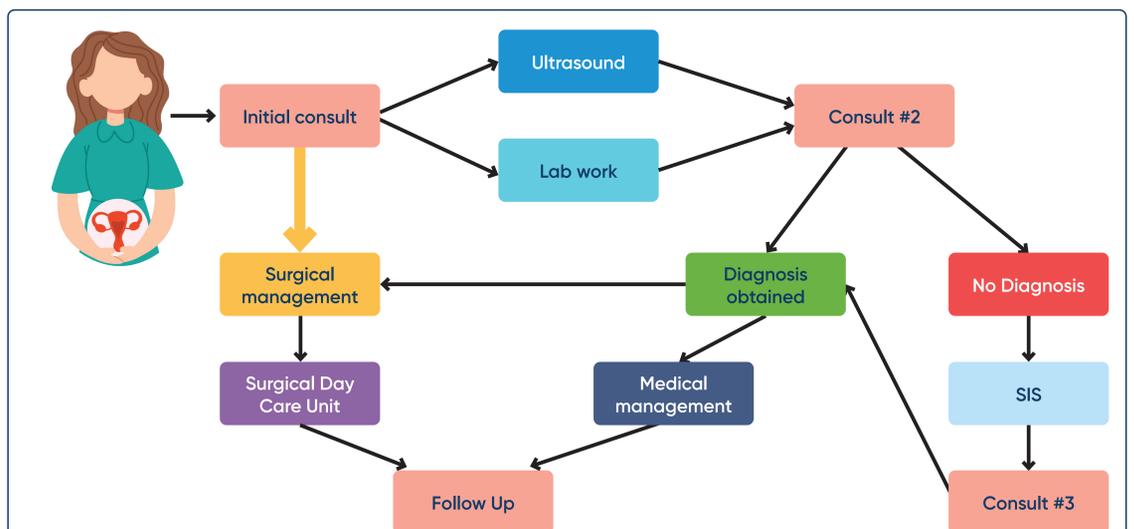


Figure 1. Conventional treatment of abnormal uterine bleeding requires multiple steps prior to surgical management (see black arrows). The outpatient hysteroscopy initiative aims to bypass these steps and provide surgical management within the same visit (see yellow arrow).

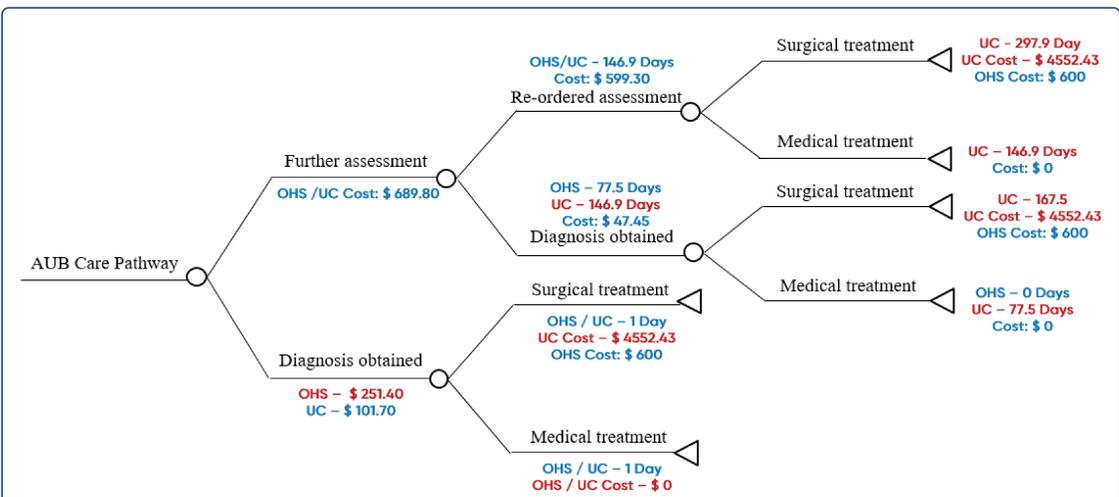


Figure 2. Data reviewed from 5000 patient visits. 200 Ottawa Hospital randomized chart reviews analyzed using a Monte Carlo simulation & the cost-savings acceptability curve. The new "See & Treat" method reduces time to treatment costs by \$1331.9 and total treatment days by 74.5 days. It also reduces time to diagnosis cost by \$107.7 and 31.8 days.