

# The role of virtual clinics in reducing demand for outpatient clinics – A pilot study for Antenatally Detected Hydronephrosis pathway at a district general hospital

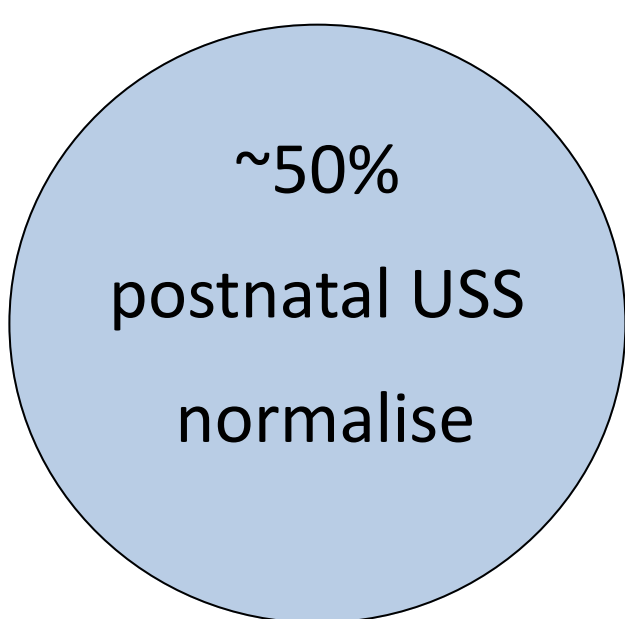
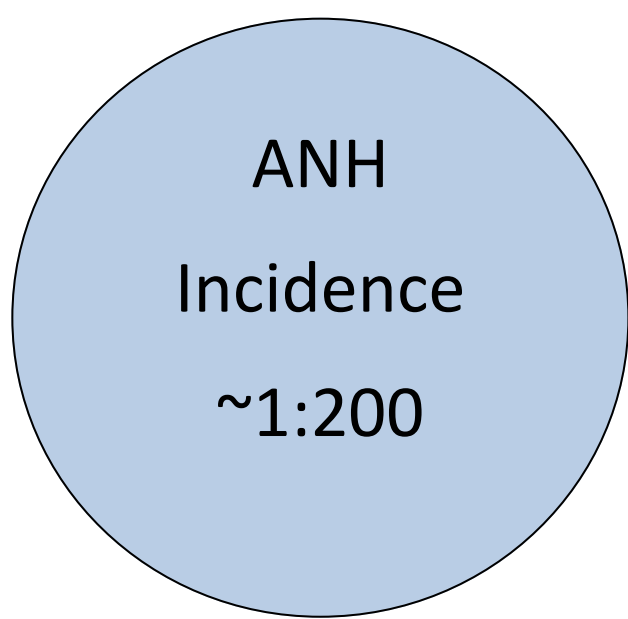
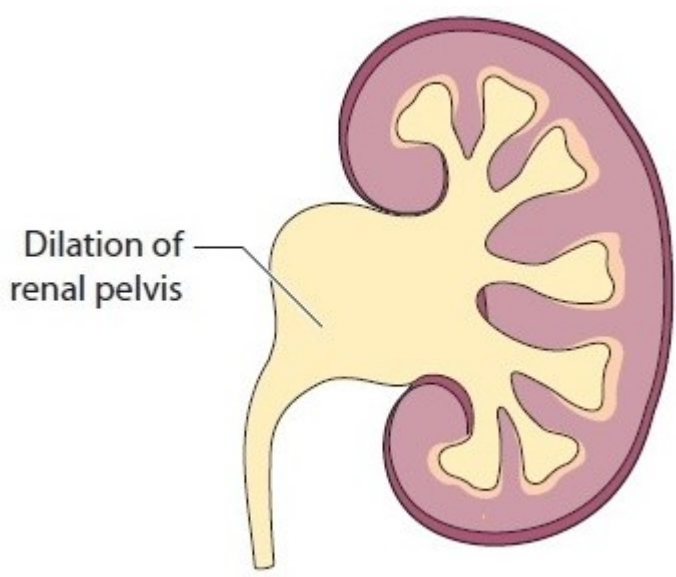
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## Introduction

- Antenatal hydronephrosis (ANH) is one of the most commonly detected abnormalities during prenatal ultrasonography.
- ANH represents a wide spectrum of urological conditions ranging from transient dilatation with no clinical significance to significant urinary tract obstruction or reflux.



- The number of outpatient appointments is increasing steadily:  $\uparrow$  8.6% since 2010/11,  $\uparrow$  3.6% between 2013/14 and 2014/15) and numbers are forecast to continue increasing without intervention.
- Virtual clinic has been used for patients with ANH in a pilot study at a (DGH)

## Aims

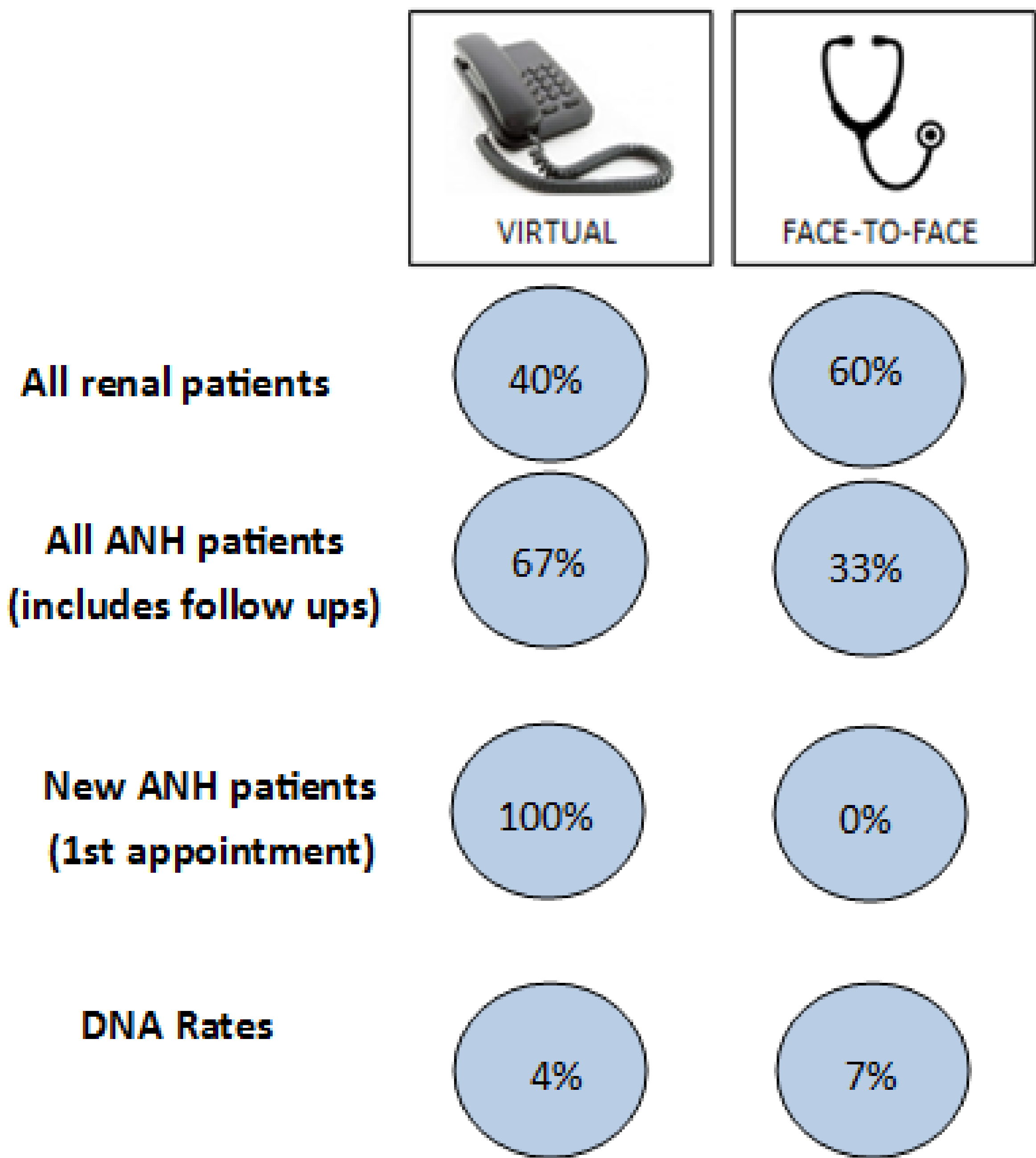
- To evaluate the use of ‘virtual clinics’ in place of traditional face-to-face clinic for ANH to effectively manage the increasing demand for outpatient clinics in a District General Hospital (DGH)

## Methods

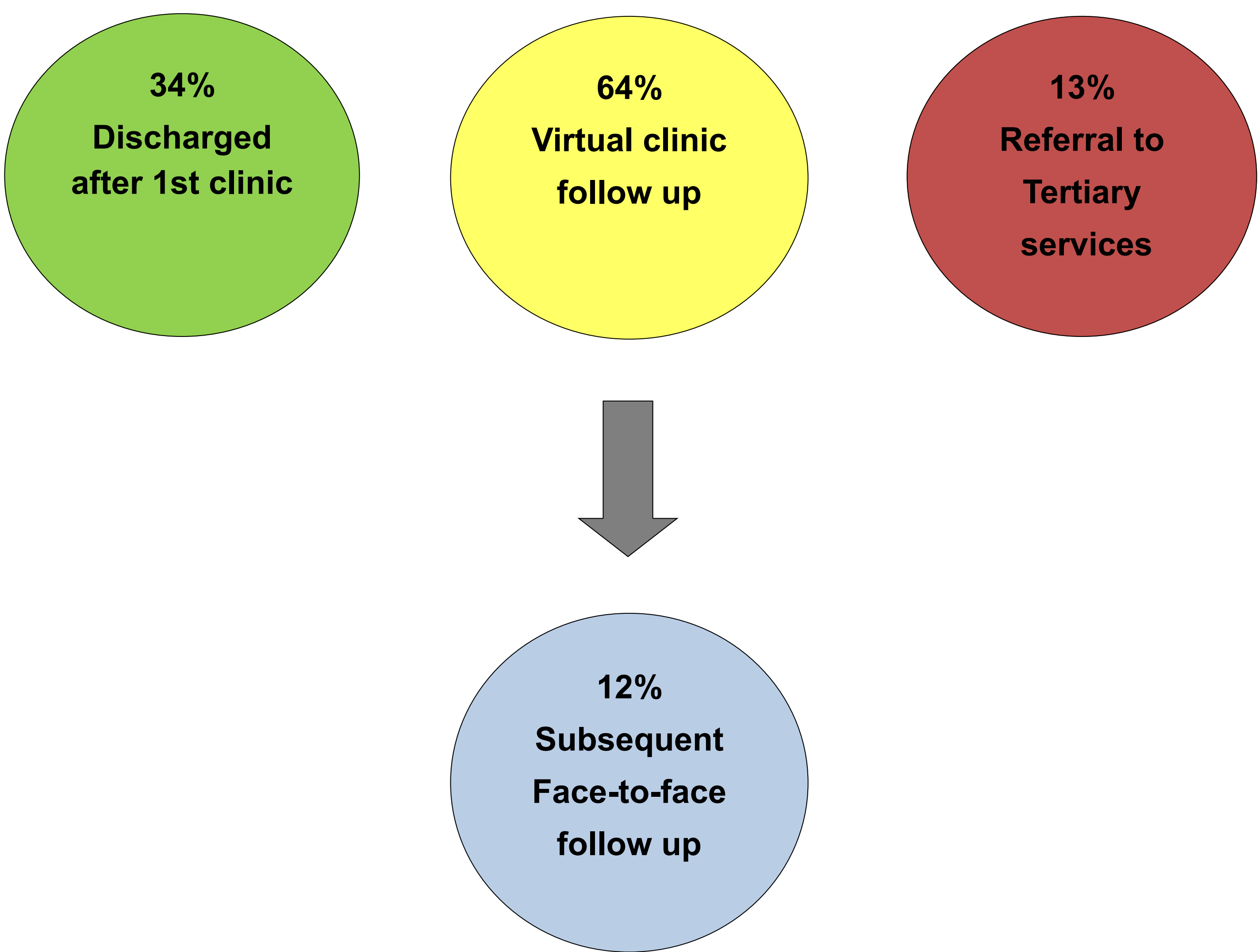
- Renal clinic lists held at a DGH over a one year period were reviewed from 9/10/2018 to 1/10/2019.
- Data on the type of clinic (virtual or face-to-face), follow up rates, type of follow up and DNA rates were collected from patient electronic records.

## Results

- 232 renal clinic appointments over 1 year
- 37% of appointments for ANH, 63% for another renal problem
- There were 38 new ANH patients seen



## Outcomes for new ANH patients



## Conclusions

- The high incidence of ANH means this group of patients places considerable demand on outpatient capacity and parental and clinician time for scans and outpatient appointments
- In our patient cohort ANH related appointments accounted for over 1/3 of all renal clinic appointments
- The use of the virtual clinic has significantly reduced the number of face-to-face appointments needed
- The first appointment for new ANH patients was virtual for 100%
- Only 12% of babies referred on the ANH pathway went on to need a face-to-face appointment locally

## Benefits

- Potential to improve clinician and parent experience
- Reduction in travel time and costs for parents and time needed off work
- Reduction in DNA rates
- Offers opportunities to make financial savings for organizations and free up outpatient capacity and clinical time whilst maintaining standards of care

