

SO MUCH MORE THAN PATIENT RECRUITMENT – USING THE BRIS-TOOL TO DEFINE CLINICAL RESEARCH NURSING

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Rationale

Research nurses undertake a vast range of duties from the development of study proposals, applications for funding, submissions for approvals, recruiting patients, delivering the research, caring for the patients, collecting data, writing reports, ensuring safety and archiving all documents. However, productivity, or effectiveness, is measured by the number of people recruited to a study and whether this is achieved on time and to target.

Recruitment is just one element of research nursing; there is so much more required from the nurse and a breadth of experience that can be developed.

It is imperative that defining clinical research nursing should be evidence based rather than anecdotal.

Method

95 clinical research staff from University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust completed the BRIS-TOOL (Tacchi 2017) over a 4 week period. The tool used a standardised set of activity descriptors and listed the studies being delivered.

Results

The data gathered was analysed to produce illustrations of the activities undertaken by each staff group; build profiles of roles and posts; and highlight the combination of activities required to deliver individual research studies.

Discussion

The BRIS-TOOL supports the determination of skill mix for a research team; it can also be used to demonstrate that:

- Research offers the opportunity for staff to develop a wide range of skills and experience
- Research teams manage competing demands
- Research nursing is patient focussed
- Clinical research nurses have the potential to better inform study design

Conclusion

The BRIS-TOOL provides evidence about the complexity of research nursing and helps to define research roles. It enables a better understanding of the research nurse role, illustrating that it is **so much more than patient recruitment**, the standard measure of productivity.

Reference

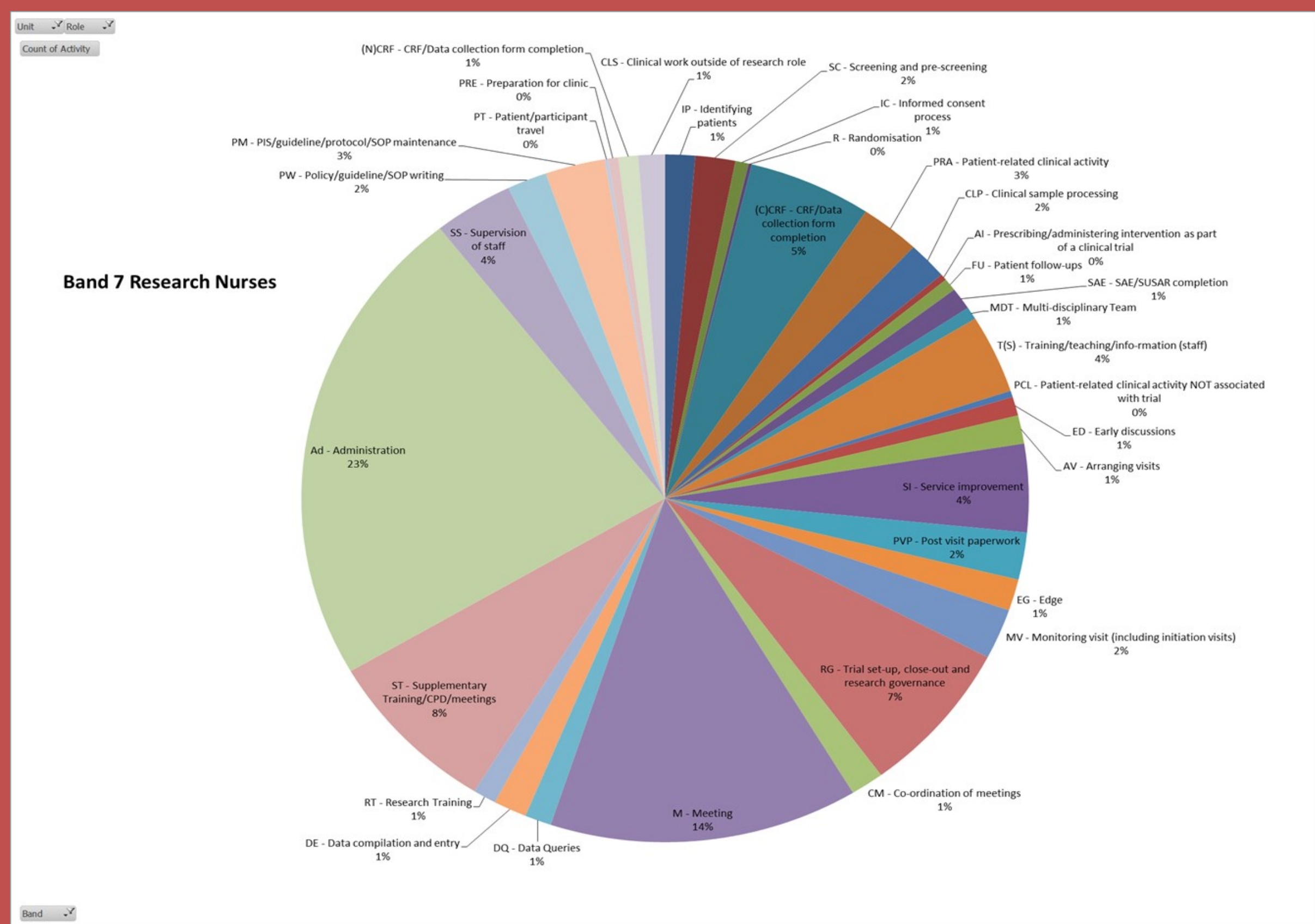
Tacchi, P.C. (2017) Development of a skill mix and study planning tool for research teams *Nursing Management Vol 23*, No 9, pages 19 –28.

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RESEARCH NURSES DEVELOP A WIDE RANGE OF SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

The BRIS-TOOL illustrates the activities undertaken by research nurses and the amount of time that each requires. Combining the data from research nurses across many teams allows a role profile to be built for each post.

This example of a Band 7 profile illustrates the breadth of work a research nurse undertakes and thus the range of skills and experience the post both offers and requires.

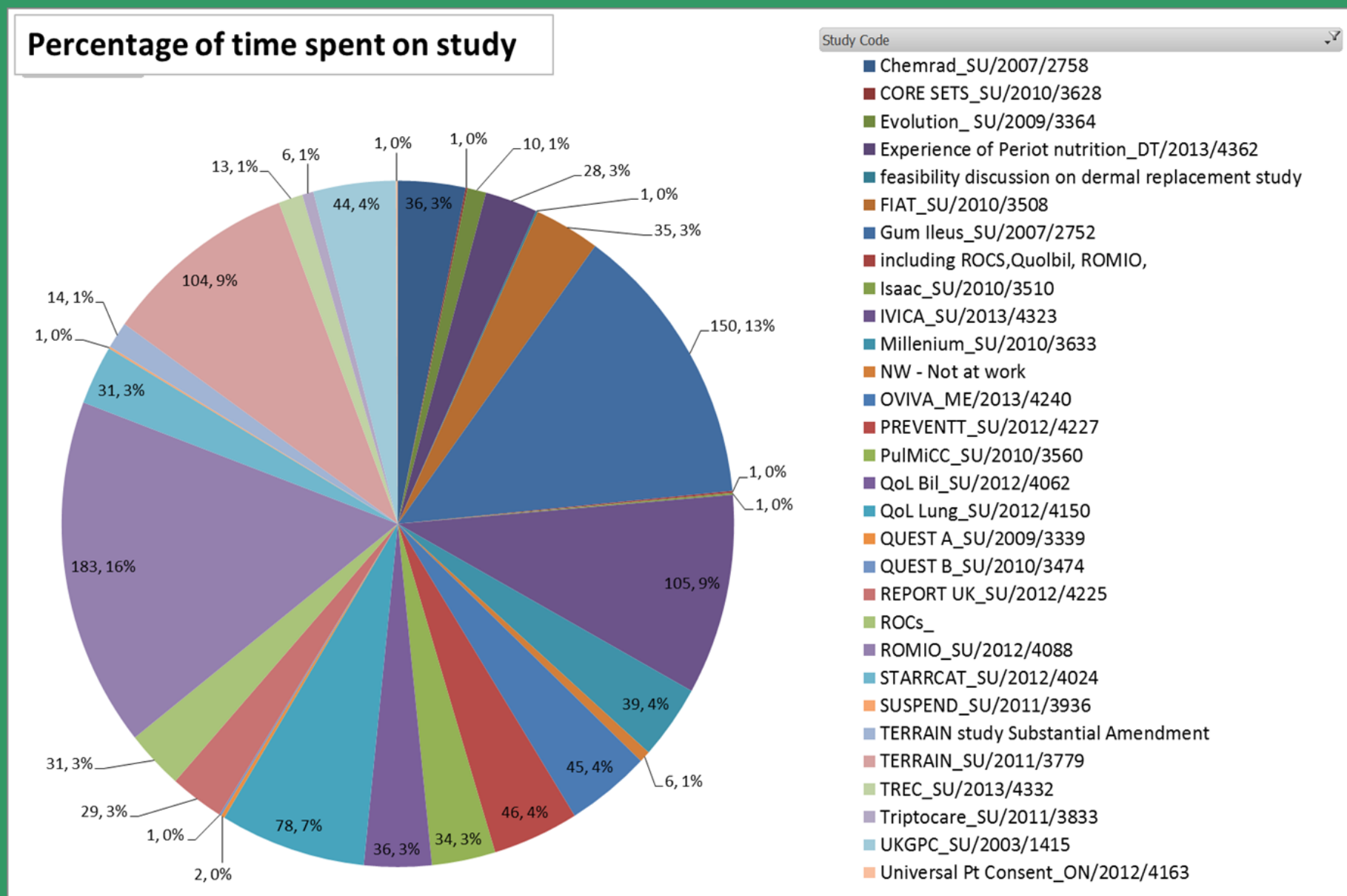


Many research nursing teams deliver a portfolio of studies each with a very different remit.

Illustrating the support each study receives from the team allows them to evaluate their capacity to take on new studies; it identifies how much time will be released when an existing study ends.

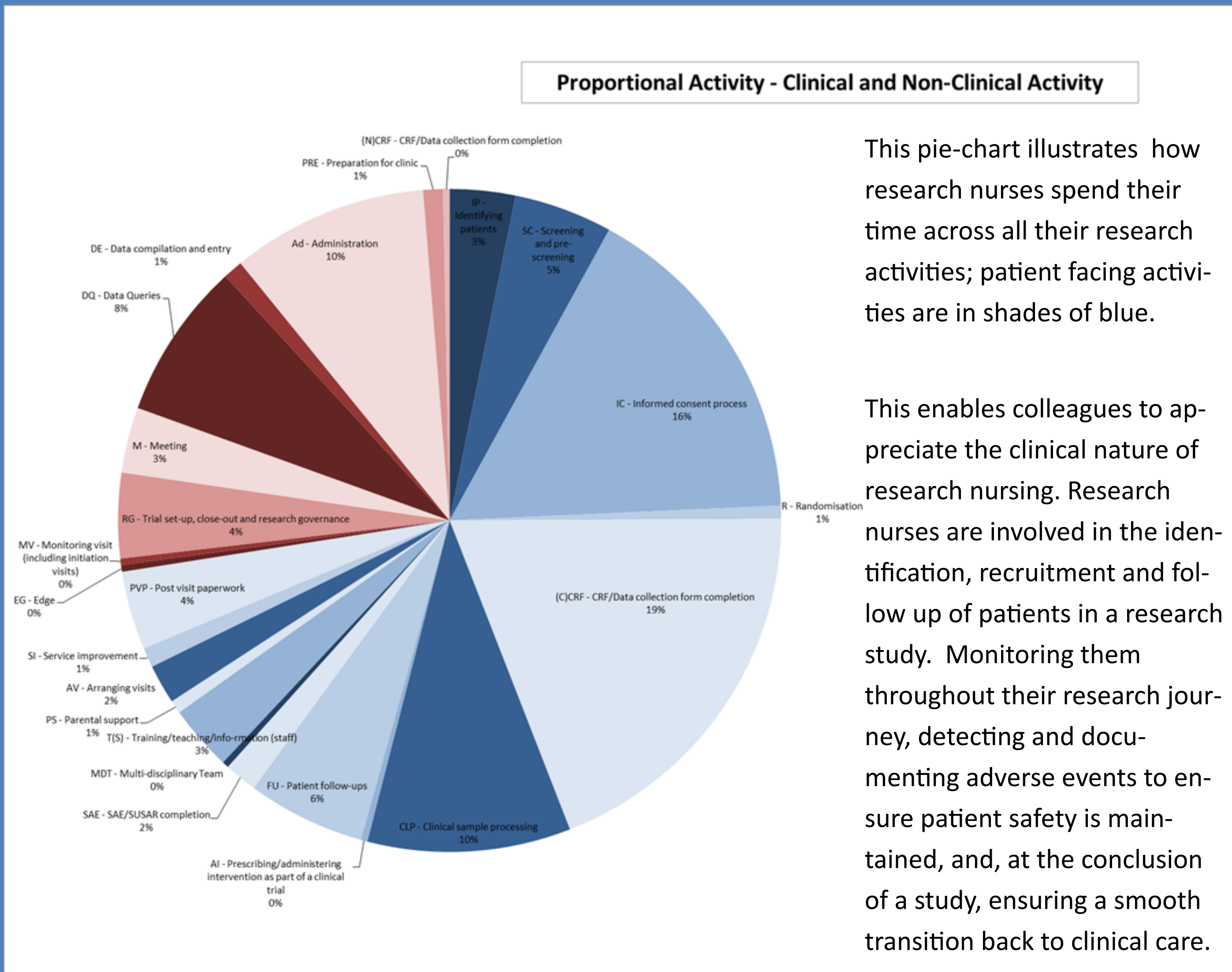
It is possible to estimate the time a new study might require if it is similar to one that is currently supported.

This information also enables a PI to understand how much time their study requires from the research nurses.



RESEARCH NURSES MANAGE COMPETING DEMANDS

RESEARCH NURSING IS PATIENT FOCUSED



This pie-chart illustrates how research nurses spend their time across all their research activities; patient facing activities are in shades of blue.

This enables colleagues to appreciate the clinical nature of research nursing. Research nurses are involved in the identification, recruitment and follow up of patients in a research study. Monitoring them throughout their research journey, detecting and documenting adverse events to ensure patient safety is maintained, and, at the conclusion of a study, ensuring a smooth transition back to clinical care.

RESEARCH NURSES SHOULD INFLUENCE STUDY DESIGN

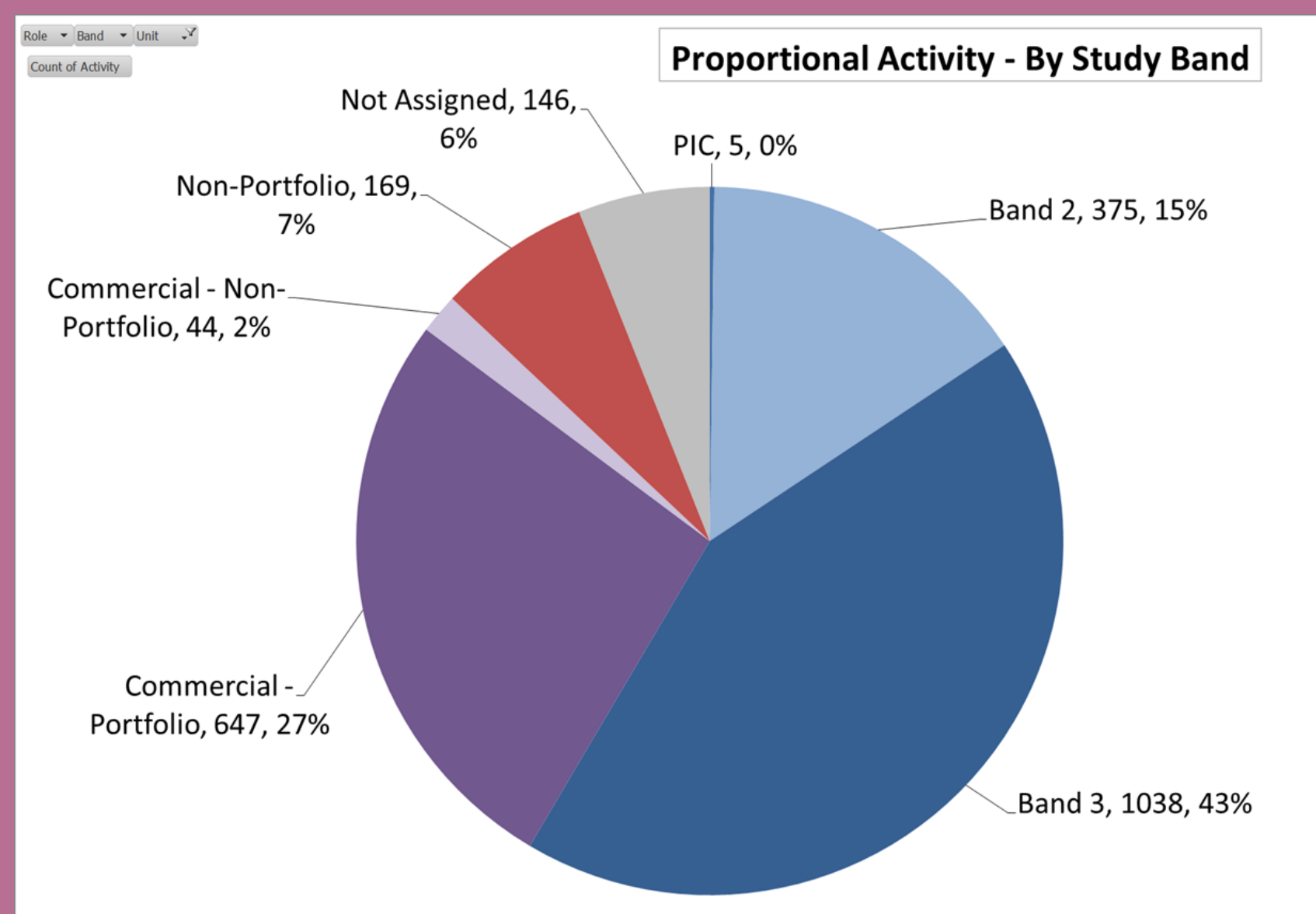
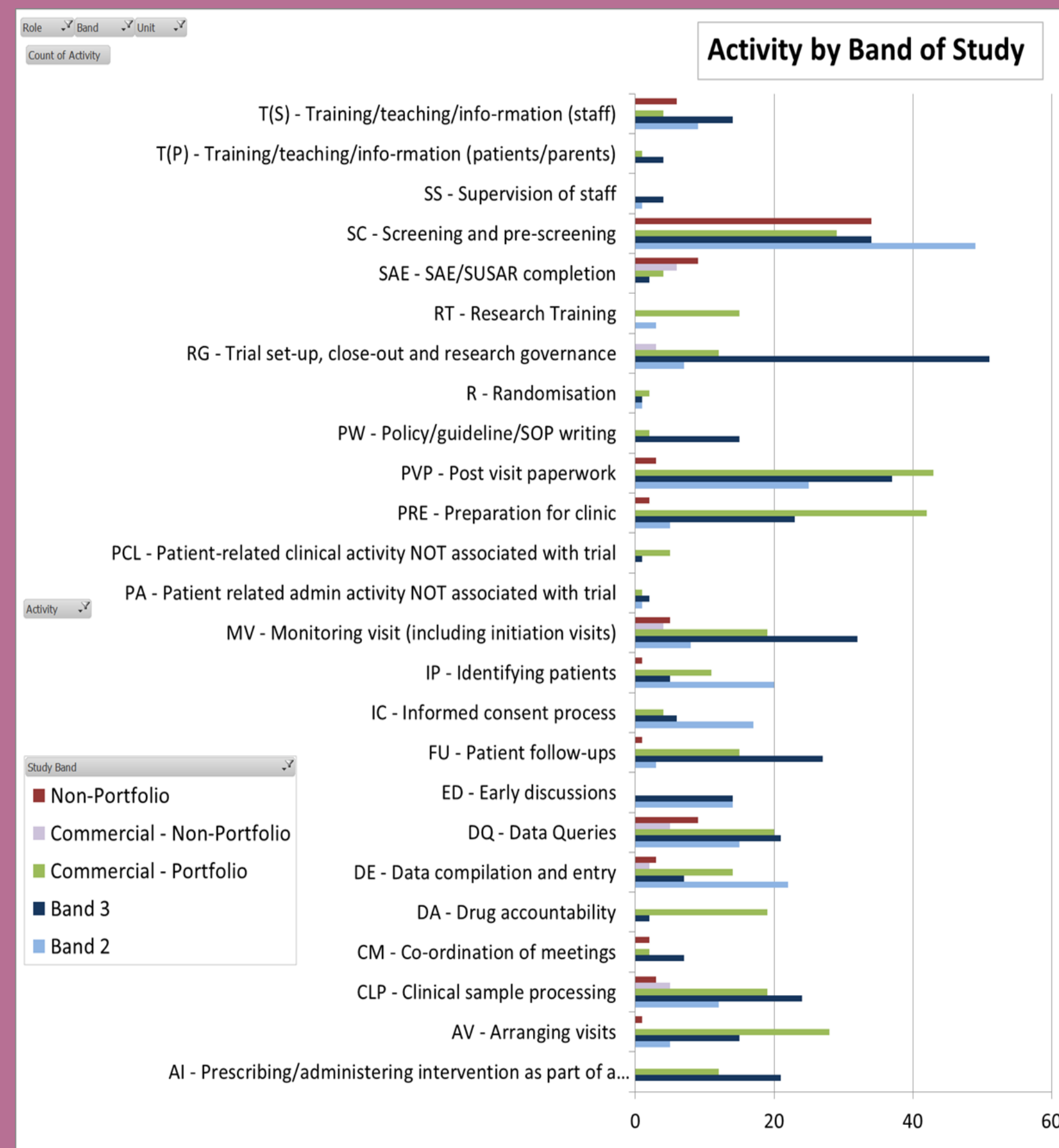
Experienced research nurses understand the clinical pathway in which research studies are set, the intended patient groups and the challenges of recruitment and retention. The information provided from the BRIS-TOOL can be used to evidence their experience when involved in discussions about research study design.

This bar-chart shows how much time research nurses spend on each activity for each band of study within their team's workload.

It is possible to produce these profiles for each individual study to illustrate where the workload lies; information that can be utilised when designing future studies.

Identifying the tasks that should be undertaken by each post and band allows a study to be accurately costed.

These profiles indicate the full scope of work a research study requires and can ensure that they are accounted for when designing new studies.



POST & TEAM FUNDING

Knowing the proportion of time spent on each type of study enables an accurate assessment of the way in which funding for posts is spent.

These charts also indicate if the funding received is a fair reflection of the work undertaken.