

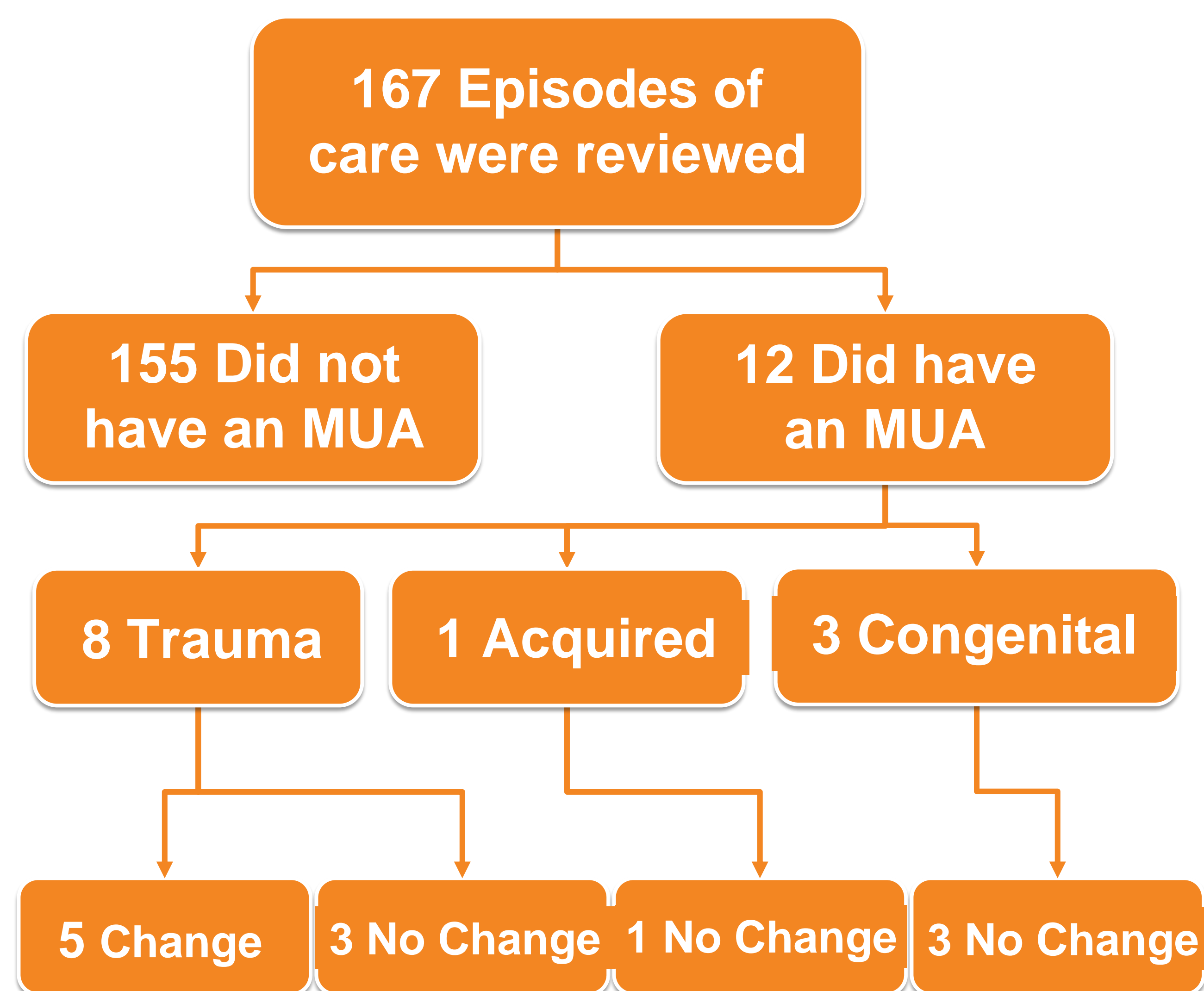
Closed Manipulation Under Anaesthetic (MUA) A Paediatric Hand Therapy/Surgery Review

Objective

To review adherence to hand therapy recommendations made on completion of a 2021 service evaluation exploring outcomes of closed manipulation under anaesthetic (MUA) of paediatric hand injuries presenting with reduced joint range of movement.

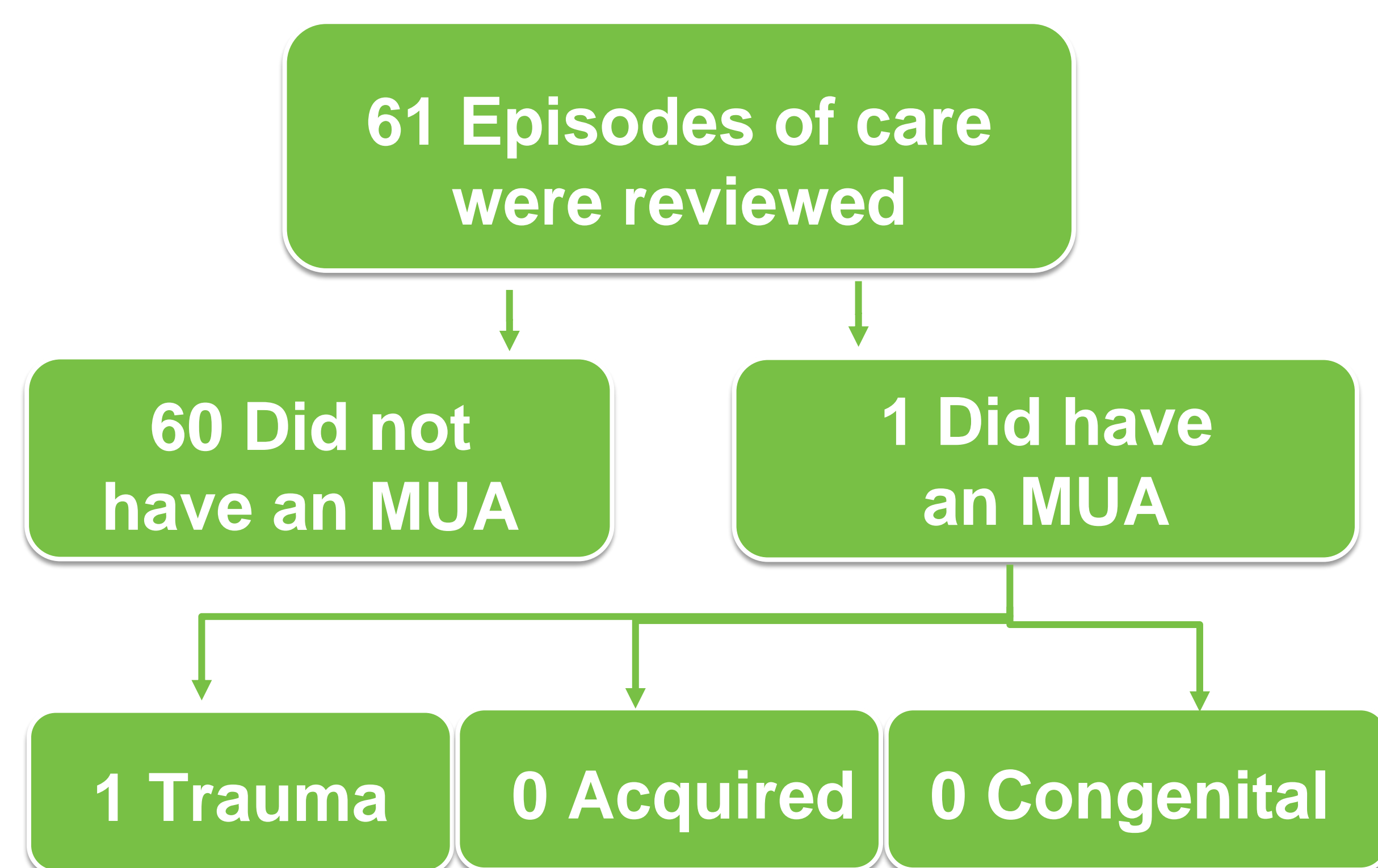
2021 Service Evaluation

- Closed MUAs were being conducted by paediatric plastic hand surgeons in a joint hand therapy/surgery clinic.
- Their aim was to mobilise stiff joints resulting from non-acute trauma, previous fear and pain avoidance while engaging in therapy interventions, congenital deformities and post-operative correction of congenital deformities.
- A 2021 service evaluation reviewed before and after MUA active range of movement (AROM) to assess the effectiveness of these MUAs.
- AROM was chosen to assess change as it was the only measure consistently available during a retrospective review of patient electronic notes between 2018-2020.
- It concluded that closed MUAs did not have a sustained long term positive outcomes in atraumatic presentations.
- This was relayed to plastic hand surgeons, who accepted the findings and agreed to consider in future management.



2024 Review Methods

- Joint hand therapy/surgery episodes of care were retrospectively reviewed from 2020-2021 via electronic notes.
- Patients who had MUAs were identified and compared to the 12 patients who had MUAs from 2018-2020.



Results

- Incidents of closed MUAs **DECREASED** from **7.1% to 1.6%**.
- There were **NO** cases of closed MUA in acquired/congenital conditions.
- There was **1** case in trauma with increased AROM of 16 degrees at 4 weeks

Aug 2018 – Mar 2020 (18 months)
12 Closed MUAs

Mar 2020 – Mar 2021 (12 months)
1 Closed MUA

Conclusion and Next Steps

- Since the 2021 service evaluation the number of closed MUA procedures being undertaken in the joint hand therapy/surgery clinic has reduced and are no longer performed on patients with atraumatic presentations.
- This review shows that the previously conducted service evaluation has resulted in a change in practice.
- There are no plans to further review closed MUAs from a hand therapy perspective and this service evaluation cycle is closed.