Frailty Flying Squad (FFS): An Emergency Department Focused Acute Care of the Elderly Service

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Purpose:
- See as many older/frail patients referred for admission as close to the front door as possible
- Facilitate early discharge and reduce length of stay.

Method:
- 3 month pilot project Jan-March 2017. Seven days a week
- ‘Big Room’ quality improvement methodology
- MDT approach with early comprehensive geriatric assessment starting in the ED
- Expedited discharge or transfer to other services from ED
- If admitted reviewed the following day by same clinicians

Outcome Measures:
- Proportion of patients discharged
- Length of stay
- Returns within 30 days

The Team:
Geriatrician. Nurse Practitioners and Physio

Results
- 355 patients were seen. 297 of these were seen Mon-Fri. Results presented are for this cohort. 168 (47%) of patients were over 85 and the median Rockwood frailty score for the whole cohort was 6

- 209 patients were ED referrals and 85 were GP referrals for admission

- Time of Frailty Review

- 97 patients (27%) referred for admission were discharged direct from ED
- A further 56 (16%) of patients had zero length of stay (LOS)

- LOS reduction most marked for the over 85s
- Graph demonstrating average LOS for all over 85s
- 9.4% were re-admitted within 30 days.
- This service has been recognised as cost effective, securing substantive funding to provide a 7 day service

Conclusion
- An ED focussed frailty service can safely deliver significant reductions in admissions and LOS for frail older people, with the potential to improve patient flow through the hospital