Better transfers of care for older people: Assessment at the front door

Karin Bishop
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‘There is a crisis in our hospitals’

Julia Scott, Chief Executive Officer, College of Occupational Therapists
Reducing the pressure on hospitals: A report on the value of occupational therapy

- The College has published four reports one for each UK nation.
- The evidence for the reports was gathered from data examples from services around the UK.
- The reports demonstrate innovative working – with occupational therapists working in A&E departments, with ambulance services and with GP practices – all working to keep people out of hospital, reduce length of stay and ensure timely and safe discharge.
Q. How do you reduce hospital admissions?

A. Prevent the need to go to the door
Assessment at the front door – Lancashire Falls Response Service

78% of people who received an innovative joint assessment between a paramedic and an occupational therapist were able to remain at home. This saved £204,000 last year.
...and also receiving appropriate services AT the front door
St. Richard’s Hospital A & E dept. Chichester
- 70% of patient referrals prevented from admission to acute beds saving over £169,000

Plymouth Community Crisis Response Team
- 88% of patient referrals prevented from admission to acute beds potential saving of £3,000,000
Barnet Hospital Rapid Response Therapy Service

- **83%** patients seen by an occupational therapist in ED avoid being admitted
- **96%** of these return to their own home rather than a care home
Frail Older Persons Assessment & Liaison (FOPAL)

- Before 2012: average LOS 21 days +
- After 2012: 66% discharged within 3 days
- Saving per year: 10,134 bed days (£961,522)

Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
Mr. H’s story of care package co-ordination

OR

Navigating the system the hurdles of multi agency provision
What are the learning points from these examples?

Right place
• Preventative Partnerships

Right time
• Rapid assessment
• Out of hours services

Right skills –
• Using the multidisciplinary team
• Speedy mobilisation of social care and community services

Right approach
• The P E O approach
• Risk enablement

Right Leadership
With A&E attendances increasing, the pressures on emergency departments are greater than ever before. Action must be taken to address demand and relieve pressure on A&Es. ‘I have been fortunate to work in a unit with front door occupational therapy seven days per week and so I am acutely aware of the benefits to the system that that brings.”

Dr. Sean McGovern, Vice President of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine Northern Ireland

A recent parliamentary report on the discharge of patients identified us as having the lowest number of ‘delayed discharges’ in the UK. With doubt this is because our integrated service model which places occupational therapy teams as core members of our planning for home and facilitated discharge teams.

David Evans, Chief Executive Northumbria NHS Foundation Trust
In summary

Reducing the pressure on hospitals can be achieved through:

- Reducing admissions to hospital
- Reducing time in hospital
- Successful transition and discharge

The COT reports show that those who receive the right help, at the right time, in the right place, as part of their care, prior to, or during their stay in hospital are likely to have **better outcomes** and are **unlikely to require** rapid, costly and upsetting readmission.
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THANK YOU