Introduction and Aims
• The Short Stay Ward (SSW) is an acute medical ward aimed at treating acute medical conditions within a short period of time (≤3 days).
• The role of this ward is to facilitate effective patient flow through the hospital with timely and appropriate transfers and discharges.
• To achieve this only certain carefully selected patients should be admitted to the SSW.

Methods
First audit cycle
• Initial audit involved two spot audits on the 27th of January 2012 and the 10th of July 2012.
• Data collection proforma was designed around the trust criteria.
• Case notes were reviewed on the SSW on these dates (n=55).
• Final report produced from findings of two spot audits.

Second audit cycle
• Re-audit carried out over a four week period from the 24th of September 2012 -19th of October 2012 (n=240).
• Case notes reviewed and data collected once a day (excluding weekends).

Results
First audit cycle
• Overall 60.0% of admissions fulfilled the trust admissions criteria for admission to the SSW.
• 85.7% of referrals for an opinion from another specialty were seen within 24 hours.

Changes Implemented
• Reminders and newly designed clerking proforma successfully improved the correct admission of patients to the SSW.
• Early review of patients by specialist teams however was not enhanced.
• Efforts are underway to improve this, with further audits warranted.

Second audit cycle
• 81.3% of patients fulfilled the trust admissions criteria for transfer to the SSW.
  ⇒ 81.3% of patients had an EDD of ≤3 days.
  ⇒ 97.5% had a pre-admission EWS of ≤3.
  ⇒ 96.7% were senior reviewed by a consultant or registrar
  ⇒ 92.5% were seen by a consultant daily
• 69.0% of referrals for an opinion from another specialty were seen within 24 hours.