
Dr Ian Wallace, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.
Challenges: Acute medicine in Northern Ireland

• Configuration of services
• Post-conflict society
• Alcohol
• Mental illness
• Drugs
• Increasing migration into Northern Ireland
• Waiting lists for OP assessments
• ED
• Primary and community care
• Exit blocks
Electronic records

Northern Ireland Electronic Care Record
Information for better care

Document View

- Patient Summary
  - Alerts and Allergies
  - New Cardiology MDM Referral
  - Medications (3 / 3)
  - Clinical Documents (42 / 42)
  - Laboratory (397 / 397)
  - Imaging (20 / 20)
Co-located medical and surgical assessment unit

- South-West Acute Hospital, Enniskillen
7-day working

• All acute medicine units in Northern Ireland have 7-day consultant presence with evening ward rounds.
• RVH – consultants for every specialty on-site and on-call every day.
Care of the Acutely Ill Elderly Patient

- Acute Frailty teams
- Direct access to COE (bypassing ED)
- Acute Care at Home service
- Discharge to Assess
- End PJ Paralysis
The Acute Care at Home Team

- Consultant Geriatricians Speciality Doctors + GPSI
- Support Staff Healthcare Assistants Clerical
- Pharmacists Speech and Language Therapist
- Occupational Therapists
- Physio-therapists
- Specialist Nurses Staff Nurses
- As and When Band 5 Bank IV Nurses
- Rapid Access to Community Psychiatric Nurse
Direct specialty assessments

• Trying to develop pathways that avoid ED for specialty specific issues
• Chronic illnesses
• Hot clinics
• Surgical complications
• RANC
Ambulatory care

ACC activity (Apr 15 – Feb 17)
Clinical Assessment Unit

Admissions 2016/2017

- Intoxication
- Chest Pain
- Collapse
- Fractures
- Overdose
- Other
- Renal/Urol
- Resp
- Seizures
- Cellulitis
- Head Injury
- Other Trauma
Co-operation

• With ED

• With other specialties

• With Republic of Ireland ....... ?Brexit

• With the rest of the UK
Conclusion

• Many challenges

• Each unit is trying a variety of approaches

• No one unit is perfect

• Co-operation is excellent
Conclusion

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Annual CPD day:
10th April 2019