



3rd Annual Quality & Patient Safety Conference Improving the Healthcare Journey for Patients & Staff



TITLE

Establishment of an Early Supported Discharge Team, for older persons, within County Monaghan

SUBMITTED BY

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION

Prior to May 2021, within County Monaghan, there was no existing therapy service to facilitate the early discharge of patients to their own home, with immediate following up intervention which emulated that which would have been received in an in-patient setting. Therefore the Early supported discharge (ESD) team was set up in June 2021 with Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy input with the aim of facilitating earlier discharge home from Cavan General hospital (Including A&E) and Monaghan rehabilitation unit for those over 65 who were deemed medically fit for discharge but required on-going therapy to maximise their recovery and prevent readmission.

METHODOLOGY

Therapy outcomes are modelled on evidence based clinical outcome measures and patient directed goals.

AIM

Our aim is to reduce the length of time that a patient remains in the in-patient hospital setting (acute and / or rehabilitation) hence saving bed days for the health service.

CHANGE IMPLEMENTED

Since the service commenced, we have facilitated 41 early discharges from Cavan and Monaghan hospitals and in doing so have provided intensive Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy intervention to maximise these patients recovery after an acute admission and subsequent diagnosis.

MEASUREMENT

The number of bed days saved was recorded using expected discharge dates and qualitative data was collected investigating patients experience of the service they received by the ESD Team.

RESULTS

- Over a 6-month period, the ESD team accepted 41 referrals. A total of 424 bed days were saved in this time, which is an average of 10.3 days per patient.
- Feedback forms were sent to all patients post discharge from the ESD team. The forms were anonymous. On an ordinal scale of 0-10 with 0 being dissatisfied with the service they received and 10 being very satisfied, the ESD received 10/10 from all patients.

VALUE

With an estimated saving of 424 bed days, this equates to a significant cost saving to the HSE. The ESD team has assisted in reducing the pressure on acute and rehabilitation beds. Confidence in referring to the service from our acute colleagues has grown. Patient feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

SUSTAINMENT

Patients and their families are delighted to be able to get home in a much timelier manner than previously possible. This is especially prevalent since COVID 19 given the very limited visiting allowed in the hospitals.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

An ESD team would reap valuable benefits to all areas within the RCSI Hospital Group.