



Rethinking ambulance service roles for older people with dementia

Better care, better outcomes

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Services : constant innovation, multiple pilots, risk of reinvention, need for evidence base..... Policy Context: Prime Minister's challenge on dementia 2012, NHS England Urgent and Emergency Care Review...

Research into Older people with Dementia and their carers use of Emergency ambulance Services

RODES

- Over 1/3 of ambulance call-outs are to people 75+
- At least 15% of call-outs to 75+ are to older people with dementia
- Around 15% of call-outs to people 75+ are to care homes
- Almost 60% of call-outs to older people with dementia in care homes do NOT result in an unscheduled hospital admission

"There is an embarrassing paucity of research into the needs of frail older people in general, and hardly any directly relevant research addressing urgent care"
 'The Silver Book' recent best practice guidance from the British Geriatrics Society

A recent review found, the strongest evidence base for paramedic skill development was in assessing and managing acute minor conditions in elderly patients the most promising means of reducing demand on EDs to be interaction of paramedics with other community services
 ...but concluded that the evidence was not strong enough to guide policy.

Survey academic literature, reports and unpublished work. Directly approach Directors of operations and research leads for UK ambulance trusts
 What existing interventions involving emergency ambulance services target older people?

Interviews with carers, care home staff, GPs and paramedics
 What factors are associated with emergency ambulance call-outs to OPWD?
 What influences the decision to convey to hospital or not?



Quantify existing patterns of service use
 What proportion of 75+ have dementia recorded?
 What proportion live in care homes or in the community?
 What proportion are conveyed to hospital?

Paramedic-Therapy led service that responds to urgent care needs of older people
 How do they care for older people with dementia?

Synthesis of findings via stakeholder hub

Outcomes that are important to older people with dementia
 Testable hypotheses
 Identify 'what works' from existing interventions



Acute Geriatric Intervention Service (AGIS)

References

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