

PAL. M. ED.

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Background

PAL.M.ED is a quality improvement project being undertaken by The Palliative Medicine Team with the Department of Emergency Medicine, the aim of which is to improve the care of patients with palliative needs who present to the ED.

At the start of the project we carried out a retrospective review of all referrals to the Palliative Medicine service in the hospital over a two month period (Nov-Dec 2013), looking at the proportion referred and seen within the ED.

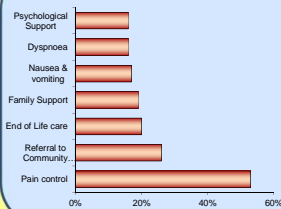
100 patients were referred to our service, 61 of whom were admitted through the ED. 58 of these were included in the audit. 6 patients were referred from the ED, only 2 of these patients were referred by ED doctors, the remaining 4 patients were referred by the admitting teams.

Prior to

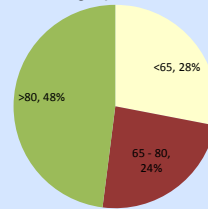
Palliative Care contact

22% of patients were known to the hospital Palliative Medicine team
28% to the Community Palliative Care Services
One patient >80yrs was known to SVUH Pall Care
No patient >80yrs was known to community palliative care

Reasons for referral



Age profile



Pain score

documented in 88%

DNR

forms completed 69%

Goals of Care

documented in 98%.

82% of patients had a **medical card.**

53% of patients had malignant disease, with 47% non-malignant presentations

Response Time

88% of patients were seen on day of referral and 12% within a day

Patient Outcomes

40% died in hospital
17 patients discharged home with community Palliative Care
5 discharged to Specialist Palliative Care Unit
21 days was the average length of stay.

Re audit in progress

New Horizons

- The introduction of an "Alert" flagging system of patients known to St. Vincent's Palliative Care Team
- Delivery of education to ED doctors and nurses,
- Provision of specifically designed referral guidelines to the Palliative Medicine Team