



Short Case Study

Advance Practice Team

The creation of an Advanced Practice Team led by a Nurse Consultant, expanding the clinical services offered to patients with frailty during Covid

The pressures on the community hospital services during Covid led to the creation of an Advanced Practice Team. This was led by Jules Kerr, a Nurse Consultant, with the aim of improving the clinical services offered to patients with frailty. The team consists of the Nurse Consultant, Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANP) and Trainee ANPs. Included in the professions are nurses and paramedics.

The focus on frailty is for all services – bed-based services, the urgent treatment centre and the Rapid Assessment Unit. A simplified pathway has been created so that staff can refer their patients to the services they need.

There is close working across the community hospital and community services to offer continuity of care to patients and families. There is an aim for the community hospital to be a “hospital without walls.”

One of the benefits of being able to offer an extended and integrated service is that there has been a reduction in acute admissions.

“ We wrap the team around patients on admission. There is a much better flow in care.

JULES KERR

The team have a philosophy of focusing on assets not deficits, and are aiming for the community hospital to be a centre of excellence for frailty.

The community hospital has also gained a reputation in compassionate care for patients at the end of life. The focus on developing outdoor space for patients and staff contributed to wellbeing, and helped everyone in facing the challenges of covid. The community involvement was impressive.

The community hospital has developed a reputation as “the community hospital that says yes,” and there is an improving understanding of the role of the community hospital in the local health and care system.

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Read more
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