Extended Care Paramedics - Meeting future out of hospital aged care needs
An Overview

- Our aim
- Our clinical approach
- Our education and training
- How do we work operationally
- Are we actually having an impact?
- An example
NSW Ambulance

Setting the Scene

- Responses: 1.2 million per year
- 10% life threatening and 40% low acuity
- 50% to patients 65yrs and over
- Location: RACF v Community (20% v 80%)
- Falls >7,000 per month

Utilisation of NSW Ambulance services by age group

Data Source: ASNSW Patient records, 2012
Our Aim

- Reduce unnecessary presentations to emergency departments
- To offer safe and effective healthcare choices
- To improve clinical outcomes for patients
- To reduce the number of contacts patients require to access appropriate care
Clinical Approach

- Identify ‘sick’ or high risk patients and ensure that these patients are transported to the ED

- Consequently, low risk patients will be identified and only these patients will be offered an alternative to the ED

- GP
- Community Health
- ECPs treat and manage
Education and Training

• Clinical school setting attached to tertiary referral hospital

• Multidisciplinary faculty
  • Medical
  • Nursing
  • Allied health

• Cognitive impairment, ageing and geriatric syndromes, elder abuse, Falls, pharmacology and the elderly, wound management, palliative care, social assessment mobility in the elderly, mental health and many procedures
How do we work Operationally?

- Respond as a result of a 000 call
- Remain part of the emergency medical system
- Single responders
- Provide emergency care as is required
- Other referrals to ECP may come internally from other paramedics
Are we having an impact?

- 1,500 responses per month
- 40-60% NTR
- 47.1% non transported patients referred to alternative healthcare provider
- 90% of referrals were successful at the time of patient contact
- 72% were to the patient’s GP
• 83 year old female with history of dementia
• 58 year old son her main carer has to work full-time
• Nil other family in NSW
• Increase falls history with nil injuries ..... Yet
• Arrives home at 1730 on Friday afternoon to find mum on floor wrapped in the telephone cord unable to get up.... again
• Calls 000
Who are we working with?

- ACI: NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation
- NSW Health
- NSW Government
- Calvary
- Building Partnerships
- NSW Falls Prevention Program
- Hunter New England Local Health District
- NSW Government
- Health
- Murrumbidgee Local Health District
- NSW Government
- Health
- Hunter New England Local Health District
- Health
- Western Sydney Local Health District
- NSW Government
- Health
- Sydney North Health Network
- PHN
- Hunter New England and Central Coast
- NSW Elder Abuse Helpline & Resource Unit
- NSW Ambulance
- Excellence in care
- GRACE@Hornsby
- Geriatric Rapid Acute Care Evaluation
- Nepean Blue Mountains LHD & PHN
Thank you

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