Day Hospital Care for Older People

Whiteabbey Hospital
Rapid Access Department for Assessment and Rehabilitation
RADAR
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Introduction

At our Trust a Rapid Access Department for Assessment and Rehabilitation was developed with the purpose of providing Comprehensive Geriatric assessment, meeting the criteria laid down in the National Service Framework for Older People. The idea is to provide a holistic approach that includes assessment, diagnosis and treatment plans. Those involved in running this Unit aim to deliver care that is effective, efficient and appropriate.

The department is based at Whiteabbey Hospital. It is led by consultants supported by experienced doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, social workers and occupational therapists. A wide variety of medical conditions are addressed in the department. In particular: Falls, Stroke, Transient Ischaemic attacks, Hypertension, Parkinson’s disease and General Deterioration.

Rapid assessment of risk factors and timely intervention not only avoids hospital admissions, but reduces the suffering of elderly patients. At RADAR patients benefit from onsite therapist assessment and treatment started on the same day after proper assessment and diagnosis. Assessment is comprehensive and involves investigations, treatment initiation and follow up, if necessary.

It is hoped that the provision of this service will reduce the burden on the number of hospital admissions and cut down on inappropriate hospital admissions.
Goal

The primary goal of RADAR is to enable elderly people to continue to live at home by providing timely access to specialist Multi-disciplinary assessment and treatment.
Objectives

• To provide an accessible and non-threatening one-stop facility specialising in the diagnosis and treatment of complex presentations of illness in the older patient.

• To prevent unnecessary admission to hospital.

• To facilitate early community discharge of the hospitalised elderly.

• To provide a facility for patients requiring rehabilitation involving specialist equipment.

• To provide a follow through of patients from the community services.

• To provide health education and prevention information
Referral Criteria

• Age over 65 years.

• Residing within the catchments area of Newtownabbey and Carrickfergus.

• Medically stable.

• Not requiring overnight stay.

• Fit to travel to and from the department on a regular basis.

Access

Referrals to RADAR may be accepted from a variety of sources, most commonly from hospital or community based health or social care professionals.

While every attempt is made to facilitate patient’s attendance at the earliest opportunity following referral, a waiting list system may be implemented. Where appropriate, prioritisation of more urgent cases is considered. A fast track system is in place to for patients assessed by our Core team as urgent to receive appointments within three working days.
What we provide

- Multi-professional comprehensive Geriatric assessment with capacity to follow up patients.
- Facilities for Multi-disciplinary specialist assessment and rehabilitation that cannot be carried out at home.
- Timely and ongoing therapy for patients with Parkinson’s and Multiple Sclerosis, to address ongoing needs.
- Health education and prevention role.
- Diagnostics and medical intervention.
- Consultant monitoring and review as appropriate.
- Fast track assessment and recommendations for treatment of patients over 65 years, presenting at A&E with falls.
- Review and information days with Specialist input, for patients suffering from Parkinson’s disease and Fallers.
- Postural stability classes.
Service Providers

• Consultant Physician
• Consultant Geriatrician
• Nurses
• Occupational Therapist
• Technical Instructor
• Physiotherapist
• Podiatrist
• Dietician
• Speech Therapists (speech and swallow)
• Pharmacist
• Dentist
• Diabetic Nurse Specialist
• Optician
• Parkinson’s Disease Nurse Specialist
• Psychiatrist
• Tissue Viability Nurse
• Stoma Nurse
• Continence Advisor
• Independent & Supplementary Prescriber
• Palliative Care Nurse