



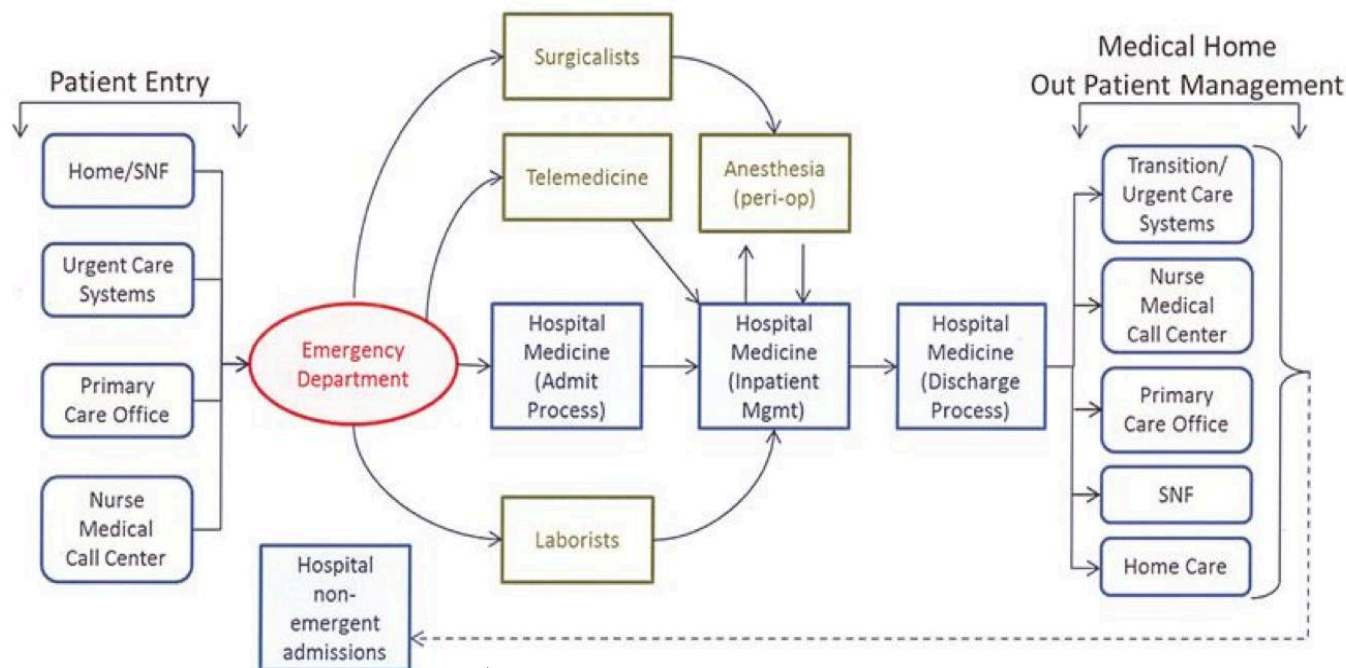
Dr Shabana Ahamed

Consultant Geriatrician
Clinical Lead Geriatrician , Falls Pathway & GOLD-ED
Chair, Geriatric Medicine Advanced Training Committee WA
DHOS Fiona Stanley Hospital



I acknowledge and pay my respects to the traditional owners of the lands upon which we meet





GERIATRIC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES

American College of
Emergency Physicians®
ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE

AGS | THE AMERICAN GERIATRICS SOCIETY
Geriatrics Health Professionals.
Leading change. Improving care for older adults.

ENA®
EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION
SAFE PRACTICE. SAFE CARE

SAEM | Society for Academic
Emergency Medicine

A photograph of a hospital corridor with several gurneys parked in a row. The gurneys are white with blue and yellow accents. The corridor has white walls and a polished floor.

FSH ED

One of the busiest emergency departments in Australia – treats ~110,000 patients/year

~330 /day

80% adults

80 adults per day > 65 years

Emergency department short stay unit (ESSU) admits approx. 30 pts per day and is the busiest admitting unit in the hospital



Government of **Western Australia**
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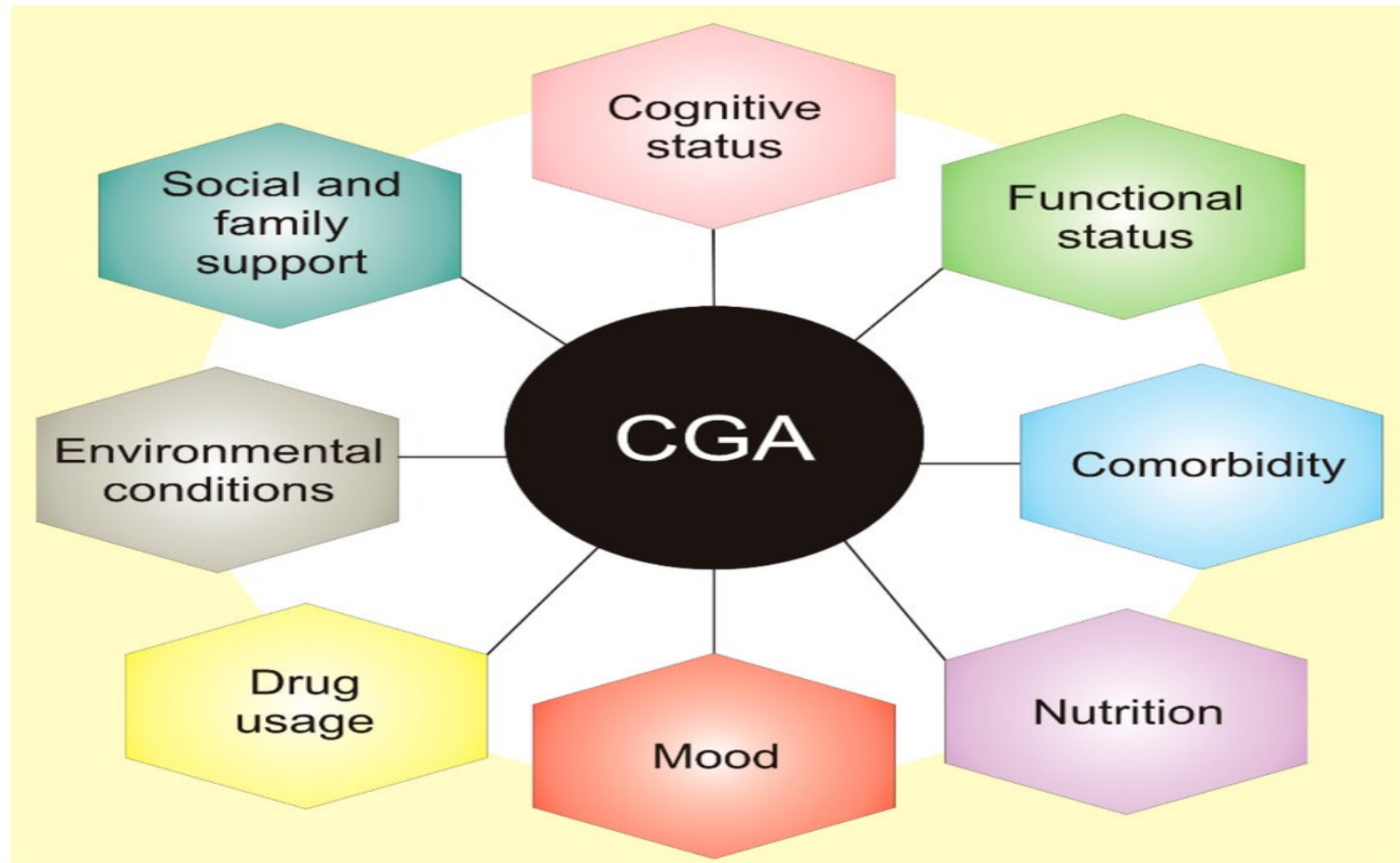


- Increasing frail older people attending the ED
- Frail older people have the highest 'conversion rate'
- Frail older people admitted to hospital
 - High risk of adverse events , increased mortality *
 - Long length of stay (LOS)
 - High readmission rates
 - High rates of residential care facilities (RCF) use

* Richardson 2006



Is it possible to embed Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA) within EDs?





A controlled evaluation of comprehensive geriatric assessment in the emergency department: the 'Emergency Frailty Unit'

SIMON PAUL CONROY¹, KHARWAR ANSARI², MARK WILLIAMS², EMILY LAITHWAITE³, BEN TEASDALE², JEREMEY DAWSON⁴, SUZANNE MASON⁴, JAY BANERJEE²

- More discharged directly from ED
- Reduction in 90-day readmission rate
- Fewer admissions- conversion rate
- Length of stay increased

3 Randomized Clinical Trials (RCTs) * showed improvements in the functional status of patients

Targeting a high-risk group appears to be more effective**

*Caplan et al 2004, McCusker et al 2001, Runciman et al 1996

**Hastings et al, 2005



ED- Short Stay Unit (ESSU)

- Reduced hospital stay
- Improved quality of care
- Decreased pressure on hospital beds

Khan et al, 1997

- Reduce the number of admissions
- Optimize the care provided in other ambulatory and domiciliary geriatric settings

Pareja et al, 2009

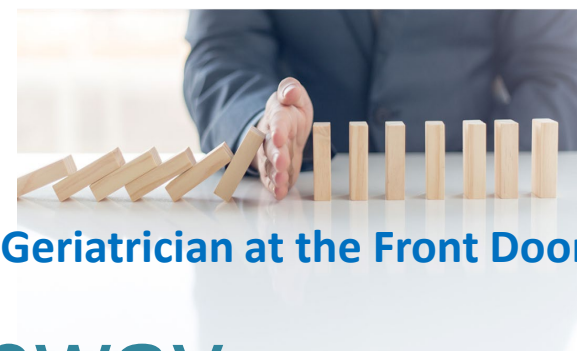


Audit conducted in 2016*



- <50% older adults were discharged home from ED
- >50% admitted to acute medical unit (AMU) with a length of stay >5 days.
- Only 32% of patients reviewed by allied health (AH) in ED
- Few referred to outpatient services

Clear need to address how older people are cared for in an urgent episode.



Standardised Pathway

FIONA STANLEY HOSPITAL FALLS PATHWAY WARD _____ DOCTOR _____	SURNAME		UMRN	
	GIVEN NAMES		DOB	GENDER
	ADDRESS			POSTCODE
				TELEPHONE

Falls are a major cause of death, injury, functional decline, hospital admission, psychological trauma and institutionalisation in older people. This pathway aims to support older people who present to ED by providing timely assessment of falls risk.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- ▶ Aged 65 years or older
- ▶ Fall with 48 hours of presentation
- ▶ Has unintentionally come to land on ground or lower surface, **includes medical causes of a fall such as syncope, but not events such as being pushed over**

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- ▶ ATS 1&2
- ▶ Suspected #NOF
- ▶ Suspected stroke or seizure causing fall
- ▶ Conscious state post fall is different to baseline
- ▶ Cervical spine precautions in place

STEP 1: If nil exclusion criteria **Triage to Falls stream**

STEP 2: Liaise with ESSU nursing lead (27636) on bed availability of 51 and 53 or high visible beds (Max 2 Falls patients in the **assessment phase** at one time). If nil beds in ESSU send to available bed space in main department and COMMENCE FALLS PATHWAY with paperwork. If isolation required – Bed 50.

STEP 3 (Medical/Nursing): EBM slip under emergency consultant of the day, diagnosis fall

STEP 4: Total ADD score within ATS time frame and completed by ESSU Lead

ATS – Australian Triage Scale

NOK – Neck of Femur

EBM – Enterprise bed management (system)

ADD – Adult deterioration detection

2024 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FALLS REPORT

- Falls account for 28% of injuries to hospitals
- 22% of Fiona Stanley Hospital daily presentations ≥ 65 years (triage 3,4,5)
- Falls in older age are often treated with low priority
- \uparrow hospitalisation and \uparrow length of stay with lack of systematic approach, \uparrow representation rate
- Minimal referrals to outpatient clinics to reduce risk factors



31% increase in the number of falls hospitalisations among people aged 65+ from 2018 to 2022

Older adults continue to experience the highest rate of falls

fatalities, hospitalisations and ED attendances



KEY FINDINGS



Every 17 hours
someone died
due to a
falls injury
in 2021



Every 16 minutes
someone was admitted
to hospital due
to a falls injury
in 2022



Every 12 minutes
someone attended the
emergency department
due to a falls injury
in 2022



NO FALLS NOVEMBER

Welcome to No Falls November, a campaign dedicated to promoting the many aspects of falls prevention and safety to patients, carers and health professionals.

FALLS RISK



Below is the calendar for the 2024 FSFHG No Falls November program, outlining each weekly theme. Resources and promotional materials will be shared every Monday and made available on the Falls hub page for sharing and displaying.

NO FALLS NOVEMBER

4-10 NOVEMBER

PJ Paralysis and postural hypotension

The importance of getting up and doing it safely!

FSH concourse: 5th November
FH B5: 6th November



11-17 NOVEMBER

Teach back and patient education

How patient education is one of the best falls prevention strategies.

FSH concourse: 13th November
FH B5: 12th November



18-24 NOVEMBER

Standby means stand with!

Strategies for preventing falls in hospital.

FSH concourse: 21st November
FH B5: 20th November



25-29 NOVEMBER

Neurological conditions and falls

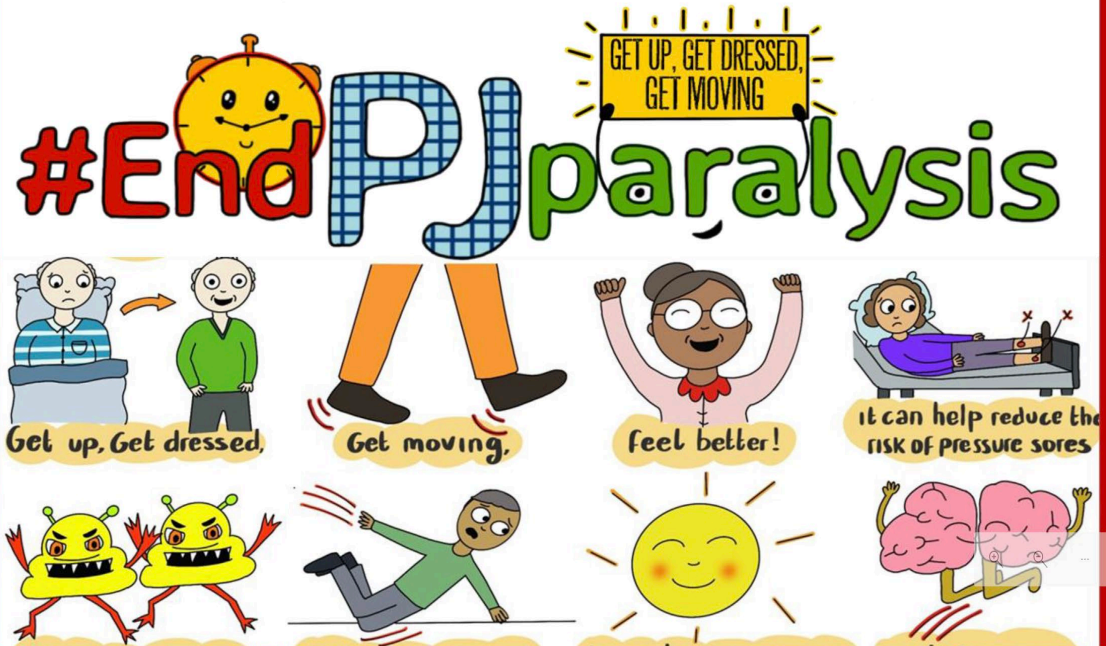
How the brain impacts falls.

FSH concourse: 26th November
FH B5: 27th November



For more information please contact:
Falls Clinical Nurse Consultant
FSFHG.falls@health.wa.gov.au

FALLS PREVENTION IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.





Marriage or Mayhem?



"Whatever."



"I'll take that
as a 'yes.'"



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health



Excellence in Innovation

FINALISTS

Falls in Emergency Department and Aged Care Evaluation

Fiona Stanley Hospital



FSFHG Older Adult Services

FSH
in-reach
services



FSFHG
outpatient
community
services

FH inpatient wards



A targeted pathway to identify and manage older adult patients that would include the following key features:

- **Service delivery** is based on current evidence and best practice, using a **standardized approach**
- **Direct access** to specialist acute aged care assessment in the ED, and direct access to geriatric ward
- **Multidisciplinary** review in ED
- **Increase discharges** from ED
- **Improved linkages** for discharge





GOLD-ED

**Geriatricians for OLDer adults in the
Emergency Department**



FSH Older Adult Emergency Department In-Reach Service

Geriatricians for Older Adults in the Emergency Department (GOLD ED Team)

✓ Inclusion criteria

- Physiologically stable (ADD's <4 / Suitable for transfer to Fremantle Hospital)
- Patients >65yrs (ATSI >50yrs)
- Falls and postural instability
- 'Falls Pathway' (Following 'trauma' component completed by ED)
- Clinical Frailty Score >4
- Geriatric Syndromes eg. Falls, Cognitive Dysfunction, Delirium, UTI, Parkinson's, Incontinence etc.
- Complex Older Adults
- Multimorbidity
- Inadequate social support
- Patients identified as suitable by the Older Adult In-Reach or ED Team
- Stable fractures with weight bearing/mobility status documented
- Parkinson's disease and Parkinson's Syndrome
- Heart failure in which the patient is haemodynamically stable
- Functional decline
- Infections (excluding septic shock) cellulitis, pneumonia, UTI etc.

Clinical frailty scale



✗ Exclusion criteria

- Physiologically unstable (ADD's >3)
- Primary surgical / subspecialty input required
- Multispecialty input needed at FSH
- Rib fracture requiring intercostal block
- Fractures: lower limb fractures, unstable pelvic fractures, spinal precautions, fractures requiring reduction, spinal fractures requiring a brace
- Bariatric patients (>230kg or shoulder width >60cm or pelvic width >55cm)
- Patients requiring Telemetry

Patients with behavioural disturbances

Require: Discussion with ED Geriatrician to ensure suitability for GOLD team review

Patient arrives at ED and initial assessment completed by ED team.

Patient identified as suitable for assessment by the Older Adult In-Reach Team and meets the inclusion criteria.

Patient referred to the Older Adult ED In-Reach Team for assessment. Referral captured on EDIS following phone call referral and acceptance.

Note: Primary Governance will remain with the ED clinician whilst patient in the ED.

Patient to be referred back to the FSH ED team if the Older Adult ED In-Reach team assess the patient as non suitable for the service.

- a) Initial discussion between GOLD ED team and ED Senior identifies patient not suitable for service. ED to arrange alternative disposition.
- b) Following GOLD ED team review, patient identified as not suitable for the service: for GOLD ED team to arrange alternative care

Patient assessed by Older Adult ED In-Reach Team includes:

- Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA)
- Diagnostic tests
- Management plan
- Initial assessment documented in BOSSNET (*including 6 hour plan for admissions)
- GOLD team to ensure regular updates to ED Medical POD lead and EBM listing (out of HUDDLE times)
- Handover to ED Medical Lead/POD Lead following completion of assessment (Agree patient disposition eg. home, community follow up or admission to FH or FSH)
- Older Adult ED In-Reach Team organise patient disposition or support services if continuing care of the patient
- Complete discharge documentation/summary.

- Patient transport organised by ED Administration as per usual process. Patient ideally to be transferred before 7:30pm. Cancel transport if not arrived by 8pm.
- ED to on refer to AMU if <10 bed cards for AMU. If >10, consider ESSU overnight and book transport for 7am (does not need medical review prior unless clinical condition has changed).
- Patients requiring admission overnight to be admitted to SAMU/AECC (not 5A/5B)

GOLD Team (Tel: 27634)

- Geriatrician
- Registrar
- RMO
- CNC (TBA)
- Pharmacist (TBA)
- ED Allied Health Support

Operational hours

7 days per week
(9am - 5pm)

Out of hours: on call Geriatrician can be contacted via switchboard

Patient referral

- ED Medical Lead, POD Leader, A/NUM, Allied Health
- Location area: GOLD Team office area (ESSU)
- Main ED assessment area 'Huddle' 11am and 3pm

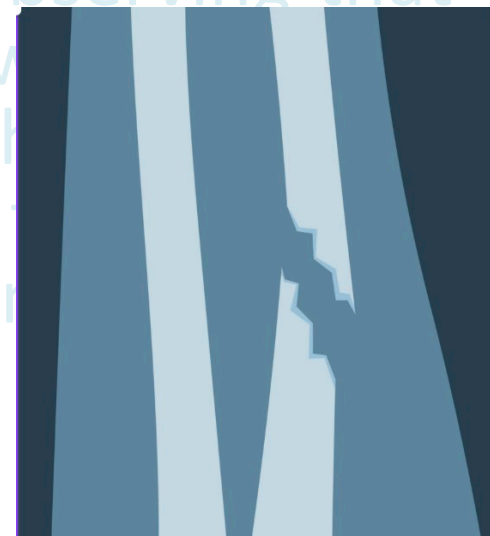
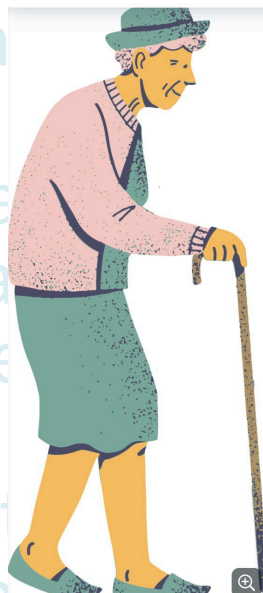




Scenario



85-year-old comes into the hospital with a broken hip. The emergency physicians help reset the fracture, give the patient medication for the pain, and—observing that the patient seems otherwise well—prepare for the patient's discharge. While the patient didn't need surgery, however, is the patient able to live alone and has difficulty with the tasks of daily living.





ED

- Main Diagnosis
- Life threatening
- Efficiently quickly move out of here

Geriatrics

- Current level of function
- Co-morbidities
- Support systems
- What else is needed for the support systems

Same patient with the same problems



- **Back pain – sciatica, acute/chronic**
- **Congestive Cardiac Failure CCF exacerbation**
- **Carer stress**
- **Lower respiratory tract infection LRTI – pneumonia/Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)/bronchitis**
- **Dementia/Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD)**
- **Constipation**
- **Fractures – pubic rami, distal radial, proximal humerus, vertebral**
- **Cellulitis**
- **Lower limb haematomas**
- **Urinary tract infections**
- **Vertigo**
- **Gastroenteritis**
- **Subdural haemorrhage**
- **Postural hypotension**
- **Seizures**
- **Poorly controlled Parkinson's disease/Parkinson's plus syndromes**
- **Titration of medications/polypharmacy**
- **Hypertensive urgency**
- **Gout/rheum/Osteoarthritis flares**
- **Hypoglycemia**

GOLD-ED

Geriatricians for OLDER adults in the
Emergency Department

ESSU -
15 beds

Gold ED
Office/
ESSU Office

Assessment -
15 beds

Children's ED -
15 beds

Green -
11 beds

Resus -
15 beds

VEM

ABAY

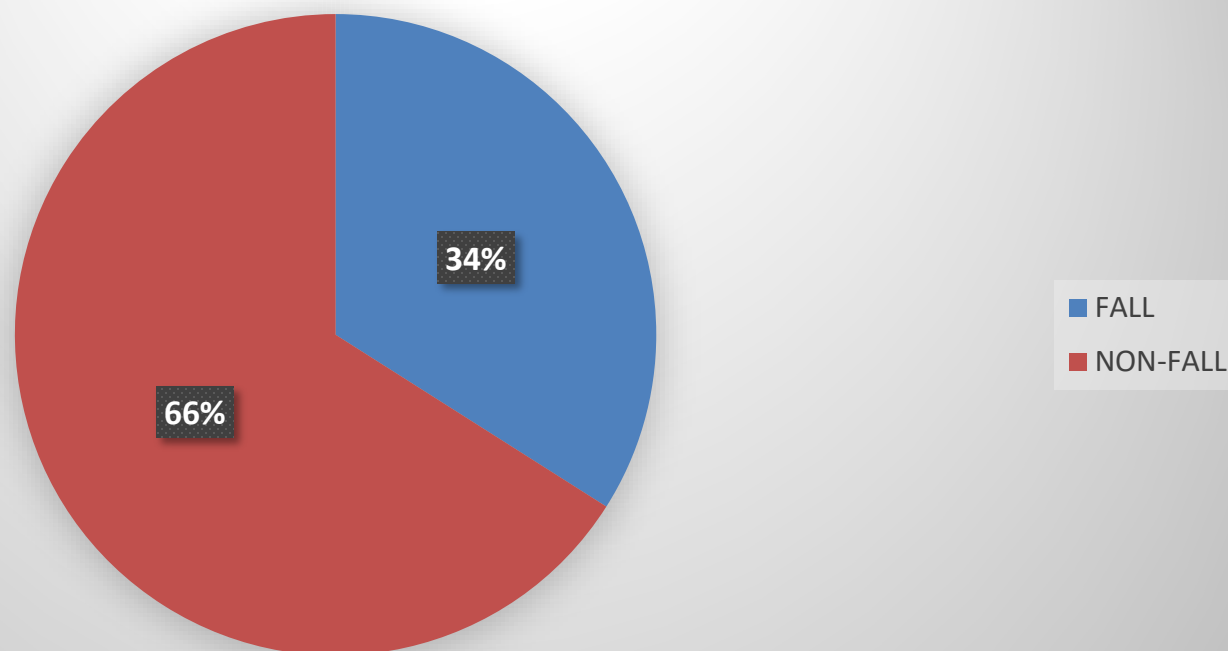


GOLD ED

- 456 referrals in the first 3 months

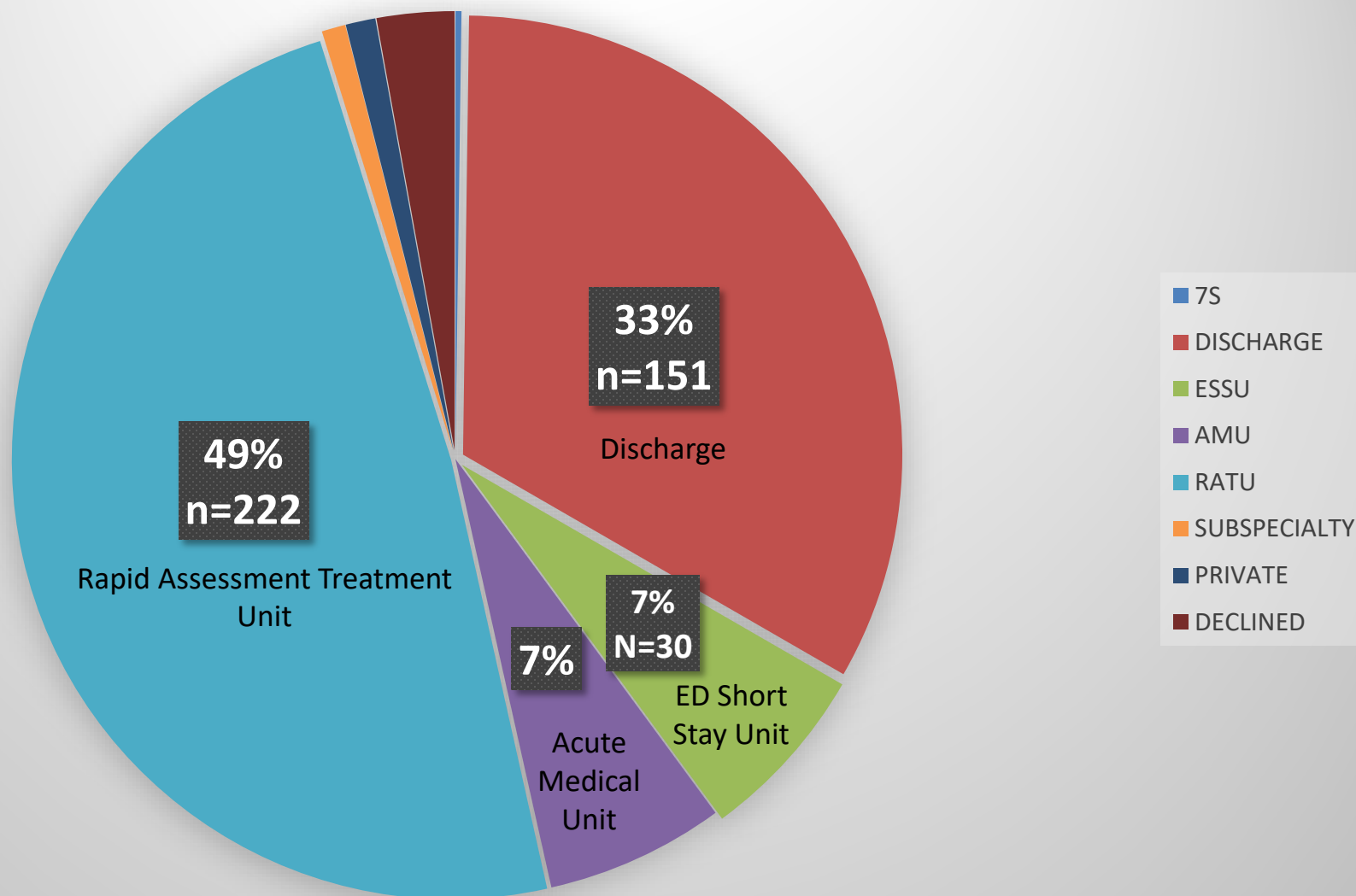


Fall vs non-falls



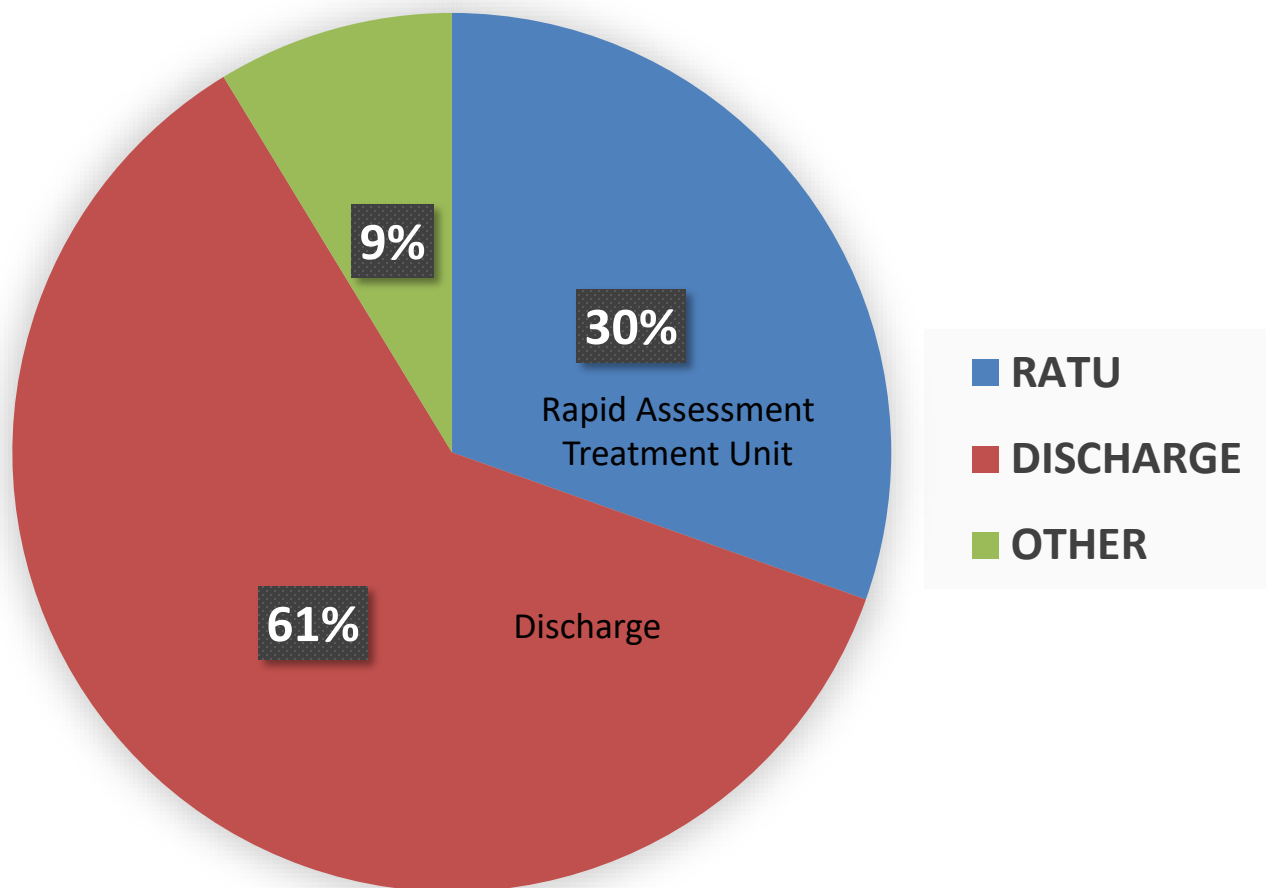


Outcomes of Referrals





ED Short Stay Unit





Benefits of GOLD ED



Fast tracking – rapid assessment and targeted care while in ED



Improved patient care – assessment of physical and cognitive functioning



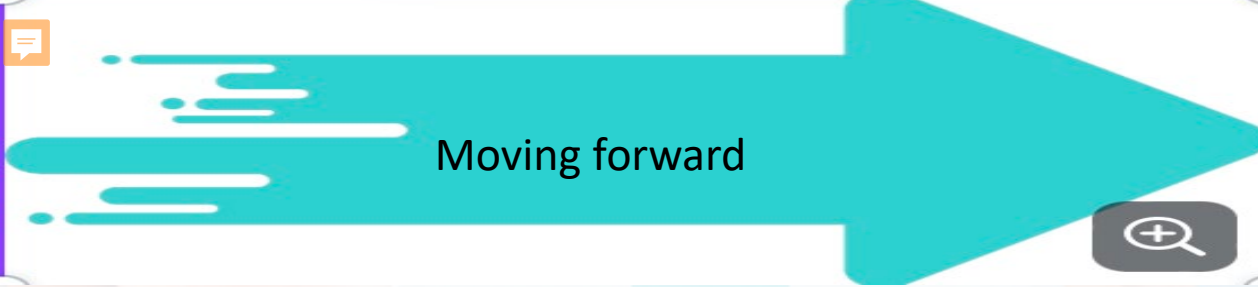
Improved care **coordination** with medical and allied health professionals



Facilitation of care – diagnostic testing, chronic disease management



Reduce need for patient hospitalization – community supports on discharge



- Principles of existing model of care and recognizing the value of existing services and how to **maintain, expand, and integrate** these services broadly
- Understand the challenges associated with patient **inflow** (ED ramp) and the implications for care delivery
- Highlight the current **gaps** in training and current workforce in geriatrician presence at the front door
- Address the bottlenecks that lead to delayed access for our patients, particularly concerning **follow-up** services (community/clinic)



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health



- Head of Geriatrics Bhaskar Mandal
- Head of ED Colleen Taylor
- ED Pharmacist Shannon Mullen
- ED Gold Reg Robyn Gallagher
- GOLD ED Geriatricians :
 - V Surendran, V Khokulan, S Ahamed, Suk L,
 - Mugi K, Imran R C Wilson
- Project Manager Hazel Hudson
- Allied Health Team lead Gracie Reynolds





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