

7 Day Ambulatory Care Service for Acute Oncology Patients

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Background:

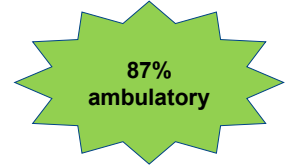
Extension of the current weekday 8am to 9pm ambulatory service for patients with presentations related to malignancy itself or toxicities from treatments.

Aims:

- Rapid assessment and treatment of unwell patients with careful attention to individualised patient presentation and utilisation of local care pathways
- Reduce inappropriate weekend admissions by providing an ambulatory pathway
- Lessen the burden on the wider GM emergency and critical care services.
- Facilitate earlier discharges with appropriate follow up
- Improved patient access and choice – patients often unwilling to attend local EDs risking non-attendance over weekends
- Patient safety – local DGH's may be less familiar with evolving treatment options and their associated toxicities

Method:

Initial pilot began May 2022
Unit opened 9am-5pm Saturday and Sunday at 50% capacity (5 trolley- chairs) staffed by 1x Advanced Clinical Practitioner, 2x Staff Nurses and 1 x Healthcare Assistant
Reviewed in July 2022 – success!!

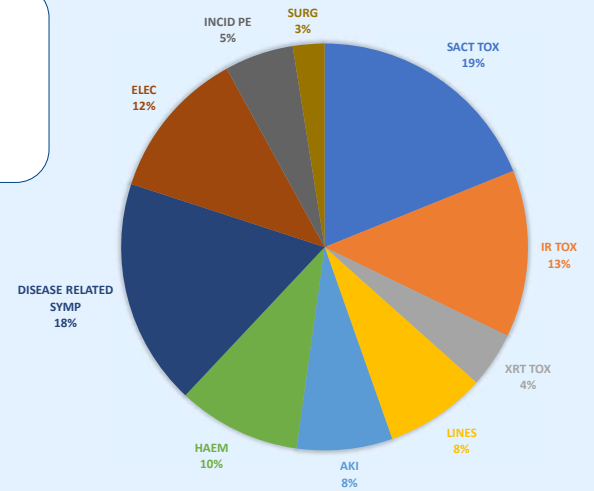


- Increase of 427% in the number of patients reviewed over the weekend suggesting fewer referred elsewhere / deferred till the following week
- No increase in admission rates – successful ambulatory management

A Business case was developed and accepted for a 7 day service 8am to 9pm Monday to Sunday
Nurse led
11 trolley-chairs
Staffed by a team of Advanced Clinical Practitioners, Registered Nurses and Healthcare Assistants
Additional staff were recruited and the full service became operational from May 2023

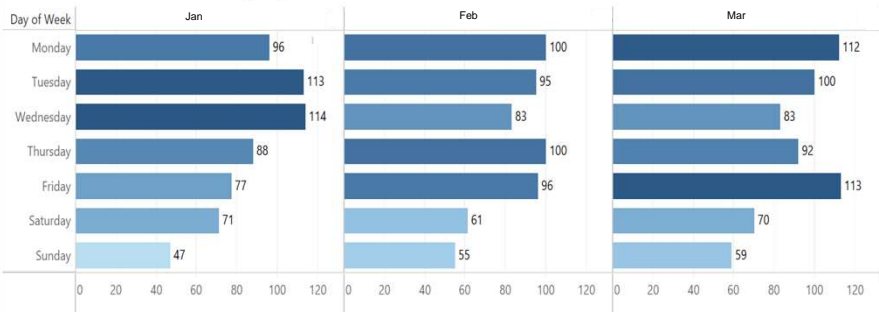
Current Results - 4 week snapshot Jan 2024

Total physical attendances: **546**
Weekend physical attendances : **118**
Total admissions: **80 (14.7%)**



Breakdown of patients by primary presentation

Total Admissions to AACU by day of week



Implications:

- Improved Patient Flow
- 85.3% Treated on an Ambulatory Pathway
- Timely access to Specialised Care
- Reduced burden on wider GM Emergency Services
- Improved Patient Choice and Satisfaction
- Improved Continuity of Care

