



# **An audit of St. James' acute stroke physiotherapy services against new Irish guidelines.**

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# Background



- 450 new stroke admissions in 2007.
- Irish National Audit of Stroke Care (2006) - only 32% of patients in SJH assessed by a physiotherapist within 72 hours of admission.
- A review of acute stroke physiotherapy treatment in 2006 showed that average treatment time was 14mins/day.



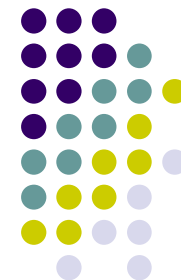
## Question time

- Within what time frame should patients receive initial physiotherapy assessment following admission to hospital?
- What is the recommended daily physiotherapy treatment time for acute stroke patients?



## National Clinical Guidelines and Recommendations for the Care of People with Stroke and Transient Ischaemic Attack

- “All patients should receive an initial physiotherapy.. Assessment.. within **24-48** hours of admission.”
- “Patients should undergo as much therapy appropriate to their needs as they are willing and able to tolerate and in the early stages they should receive a minimum of **45 minutes** daily..”



## Aims & objectives:

- **Aim:** To audit current SJH acute stroke physiotherapy services against new Irish guidelines.
- **Objectives:** To compare
  - a) time from admission to initial physiotherapy assessment
  - b) physiotherapy treatment time against guidelines recommendations



## Methods:

- a) Audit of time from admission to assessment:** Data was collected prospectively for all new stroke admissions between Aug – Oct 09.
  
- b) Audit of treatment time:**

Data was collected each Wednesday, for a period of 6 weeks in June/July 09. Physiotherapists treating patients with acute stroke were requested to prioritise their patients as normal and complete a form at the end of that day.



## Results (a)

- Due to high levels of annual leave, the audit was not completed for the month of September.
- 32 new patients
- 47% (n=15) were seen within 24 hours of admission.
- 78% of patients (n=25) were seen within 48 hours of admission.
- Most common reason for delay was the referral being sent over a weekend (n=4).



## Root cause analysis (a)

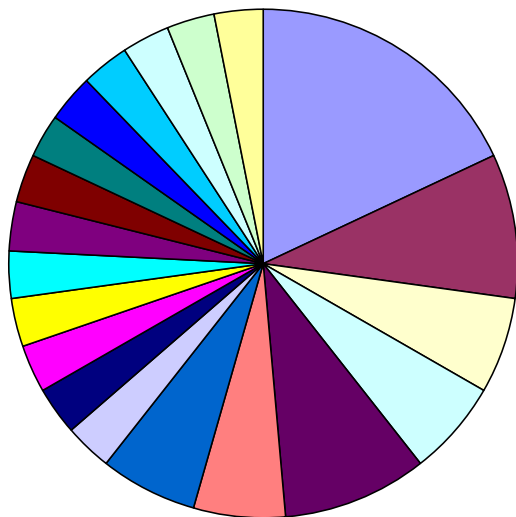
Patients not seen within 48 hours of admission

- Weekend referrals
- Physiotherapy only provides 5-day service for stroke
  - Physio not aware of all new admissions on Friday AM
    - Referrals not always sent promptly by med team on Fridays.

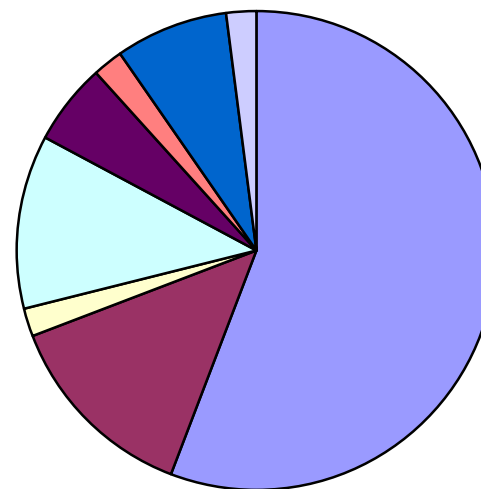
# Patients per Consultant 2006 Vs 2009



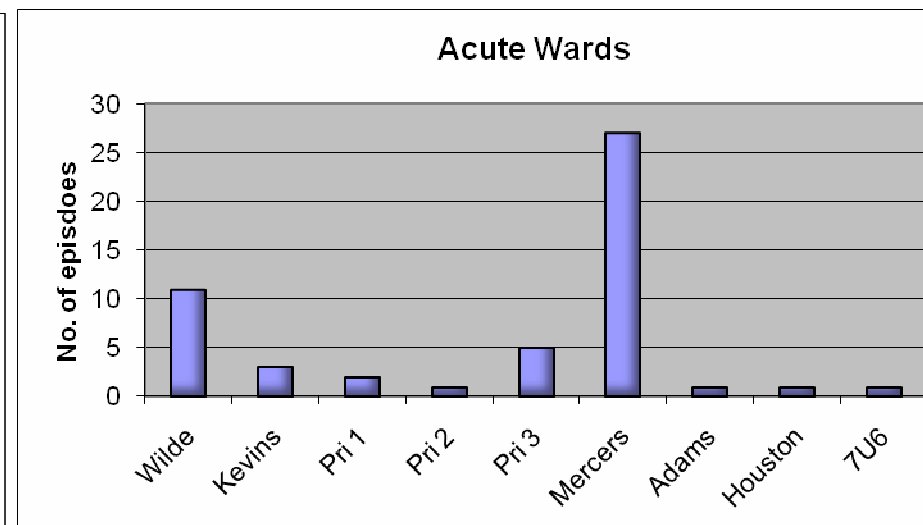
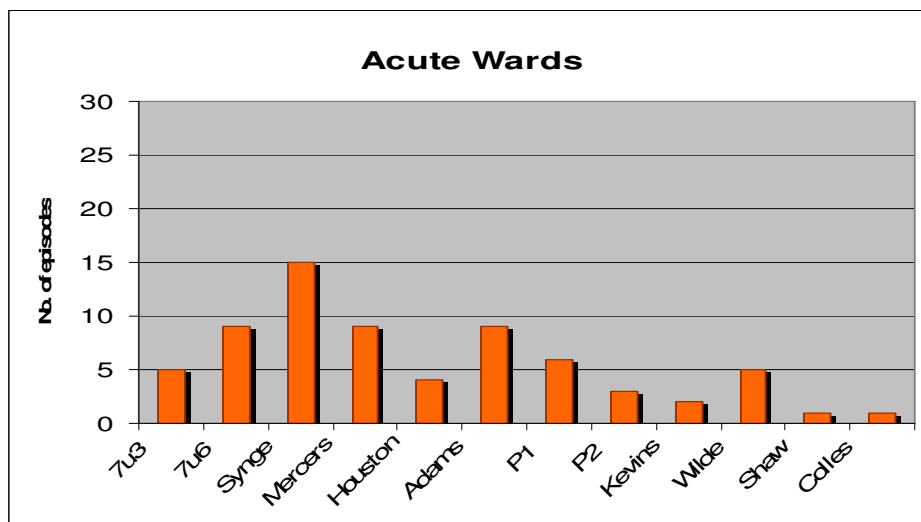
Patients per Consultant 2006



Patients per Consultant 2009



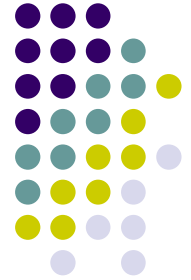
# Ward distribution 2006 vs 2009





## Results (b)

	2006	2009
Episodes of care	69	52
No. of patients	33	32
Mean treatment time	<b>14.1 mins</b>	<b>18.3 mins</b>
(excluding "0")		<b>22.0 mins</b>
Not seen	28%	17%
Range	0 - 60	0 - 45
Gym-based treatments	22%	21%



## Root cause analysis (b)

Mean treatment time 22 minutes

- Heavy caseload/ time constraints
  - High staff: patient ratio
    - Insufficient staffing
      - Lack of funding.



# Barriers

- Despite consultant support, there is currently no funding to support a fully staffed acute stroke service in SJH.
- Ongoing resource and staff limitations mean that it may not be possible to immediately address deficits identified by this audit.

# Action plan



- Findings of this audit have been presented to the Consultant in Stroke, Dr. Harbison.
- Need for prompt referrals has been highlighted to NCHDs.
- It is hoped that identification of service deficits will support proposals for increased funding & resources in this area and provide a benchmark for future audits.

# Questions??

