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Improving patient flow by altering start times and implementing 2 MDTs

Improvements to the Acute Frailty Unit: improving patient flow by altering start times and implementing 2 MDTs a day

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Patient Story

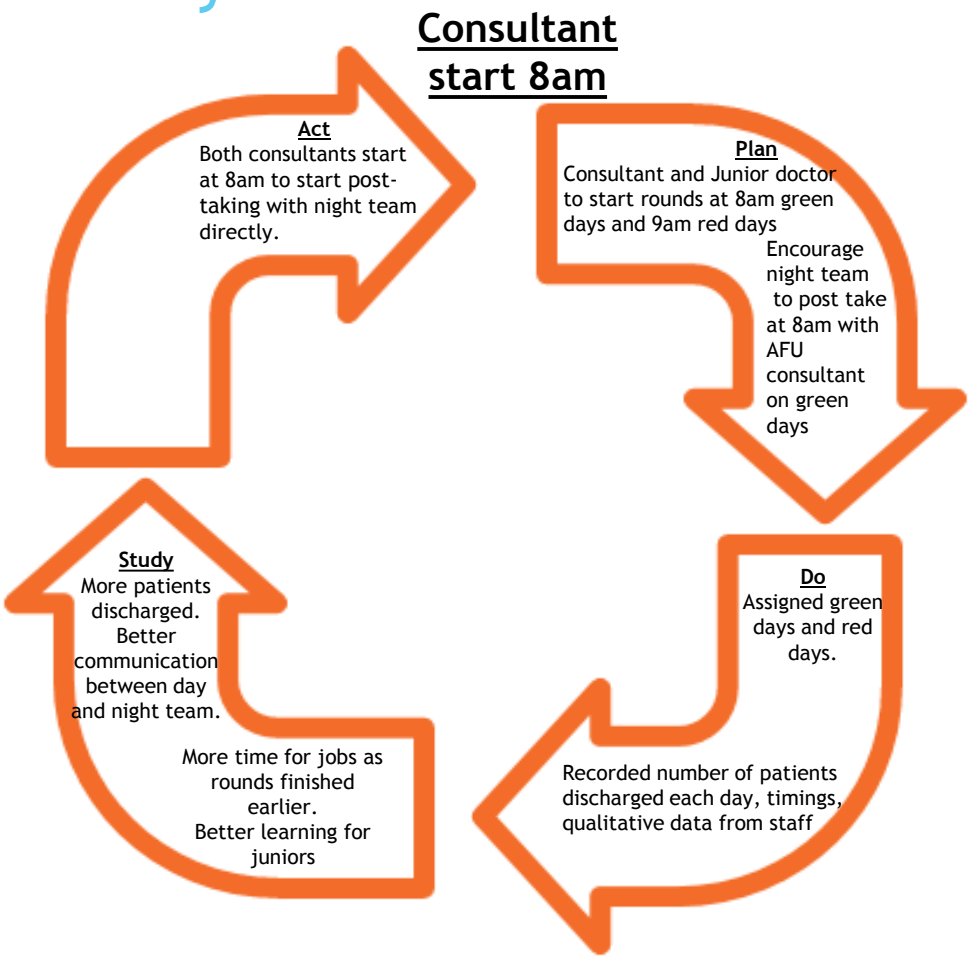
Intro

- The Acute Frailty Unit (AFU) started November 2017
- Enables rapid comprehensive geriatric assessment of patients
- Timely discharge of patients can reduce mortality by limiting the time a patient is exposed to risks e.g. infections.
- Challenging patient flow; Elderly patients form a high percentage of patients in an Acute Medical Unit (AMU) and up to 70% of hospital inpatients.

Project

- Targeted interventions simultaneously
- 1. Beginning the ward round at 8am - night team post-takes directly with AFU consultants
- 2: Second MDT later in the day to identify and address barriers to discharge. Interventions were studied in a Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) cycle.

PDSA Cycles

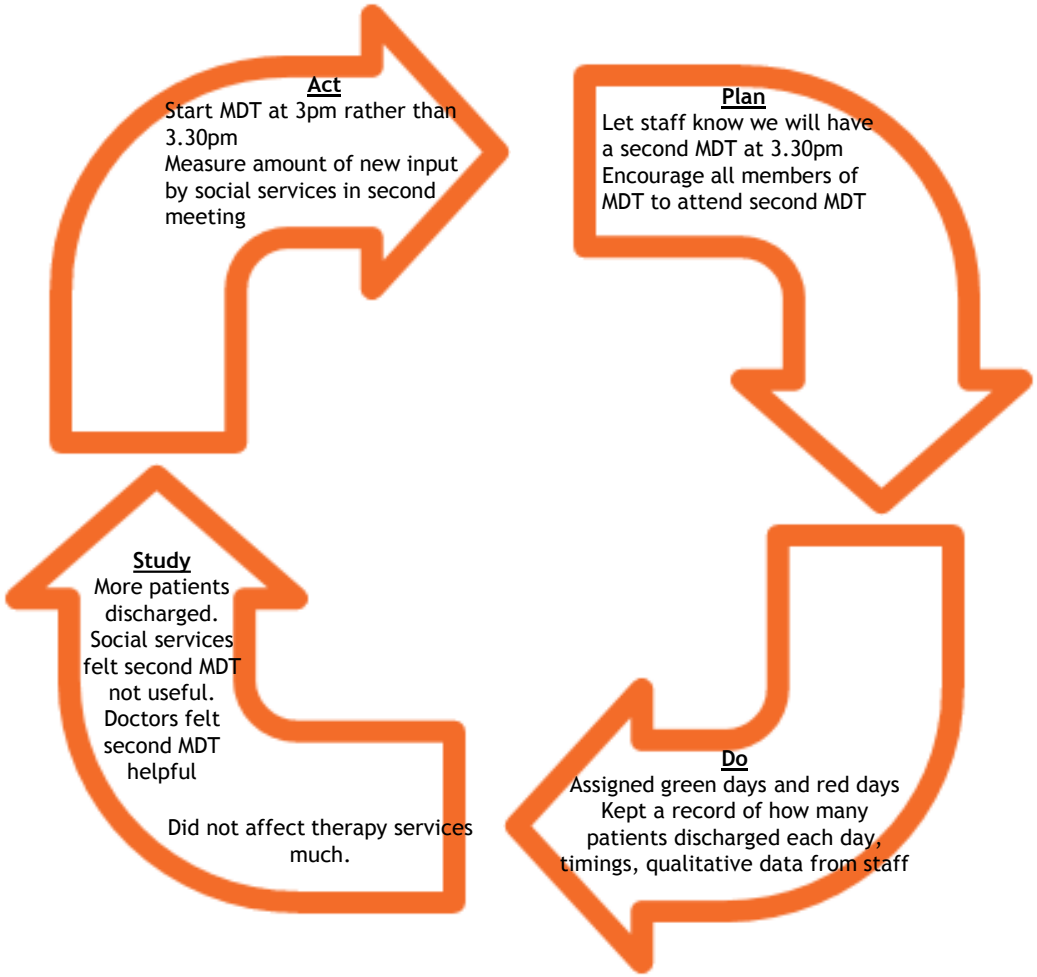


Current Practice

Ward rounds start at 9am.

Hypothesis

Starting earlier may improve patient flow by allowing us to see patients earlier and therefore having more time during the day to enable safe discharges



Current Practice

One MDT a day at 12:00pm

Hypothesis

2 MDTs improve patient flow by increasing communication between teams to enable safe patient discharge and identify barriers to discharge early in order to address them during working hours

Results

- Sick patients identified before ward round
- More completed discharges on green days than red days **(60-100% vs 50-60%).**
- More time for juniors
- Better contribution to MDT
- Barriers to discharge addressed at second MDT
- Second MDT at 3.30 a timing problem.

Limitations

- Data was collected over 2 weeks –does not reflect seasonal fluctuations in bed occupancy.
- No record of readmission rate. We need to ensure increased discharge rate reflects quality and safety of care.
- No qualitative data on patient experience – need to ensure patient experience is at the heart of this change.

Future Steps?

- ?AFU at the weekend
- Continue 2nd MDT but change time to 3pm - recycle.

Questions?