



Establishing a frailty referral network within the Severn Major Trauma Network: A quality improvement project

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Aims

- 1) Determine whether clinicians are screening and following up frailty syndromes, and identify barriers to doing this
- 2) To improve knowledge of the referrals and follow up process by establishing a 'frailty referral network' in the Severn Major Trauma Network.

Introduction

The British Orthopaedic Association Standards for Trauma & Orthopaedics (BOASTs) for older or frail trauma patients advises that all patients must be assessed for frailty syndromes (delirium/dementia, malnutrition, bone health and falls). It was agreed locally that frailty syndromes identified should be documented in the discharge letter and appropriately referred for follow-up.

There are 4 stages to this project:

- 1) Audit of assessment and follow up plans for frailty syndromes. Survey of doctors in confidence making referrals, and barriers to making them.
- 2) Collating the referral pathways from the trauma centres in the Severn Major Trauma network
- 3) Creating a 'frailty referral network' single document from the above
- 4) Re-Audit of the above to assess impact

This poster focuses on stages 1) and 2).

Methods

- 1) Trauma/Orthopaedic doctors were surveyed to assess knowledge of referral pathways.
- 2) The medical notes of 40 patients seen by the Geriatric Perioperative Care (G-POC) team and discharge summaries were audited to establish whether frailty syndromes were identified and follow-up plans documented by the G-POC team, and then included within the discharge summary by the T&O team.

Conclusions

The MTC is not meeting BOAST recommendations for the assessment of frail and older trauma patients, in part due to lack of knowledge surrounding referral pathways. Clear pathways to local services are required.

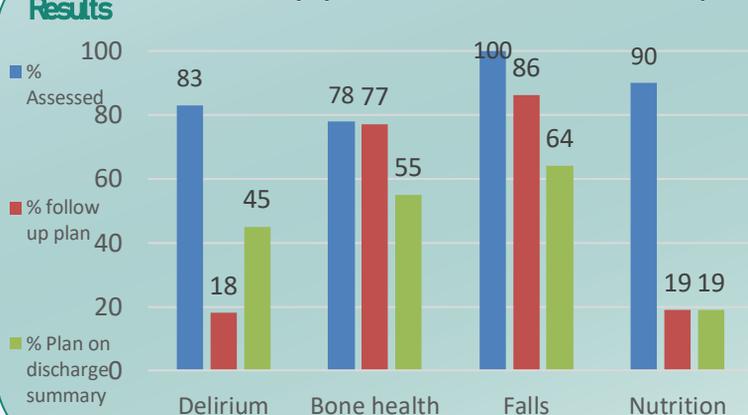
Next step – collate referral pathways for all TUs to establish the frailty referral network

Barriers to making appropriate referrals (free text response):

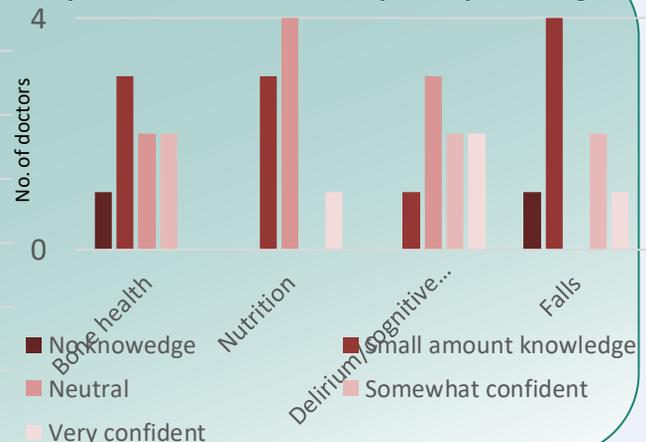
- Lack of trust guideline on frailty syndromes
- Not highlighted during departmental induction
- Unclear who's responsibility it is
- Lack of a clear plan from seniors

Results

Audit of frailty syndrome assessment and follow-up



Survey of T&O doctors on referral pathway knowledge



References

- British Orthopaedic Association Standards for Trauma & Orthopaedics (BOASTs) (2019) The care of the frail or older orthopaedic trauma patient. Available at: <https://www.boa.ac.uk/resources/boast-frailty.html> (Accessed May 2022)
- NHS England (2021) Annex DtC: Guidance on best practice tariffs. Available at: https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/21-22NT_Annex-DtC-Best-practice-tariffs.pdf (Accessed May 2022)