

Failure to Diagnose Dementia Early -Effect on Hospitals

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Older Peoples Medicine (OPM) NNUH

- Largest single site department nationally
- 8500 discharges per year
- 300-400 patients at any one time
- 6 base wards including stroke, orthogeriatric medicine and a dementia specialty ward

Average Length of Stay (LOS)

- For NNUH 4.5 days
- For OPM 12.2 days
- For older people with dementia 21 days

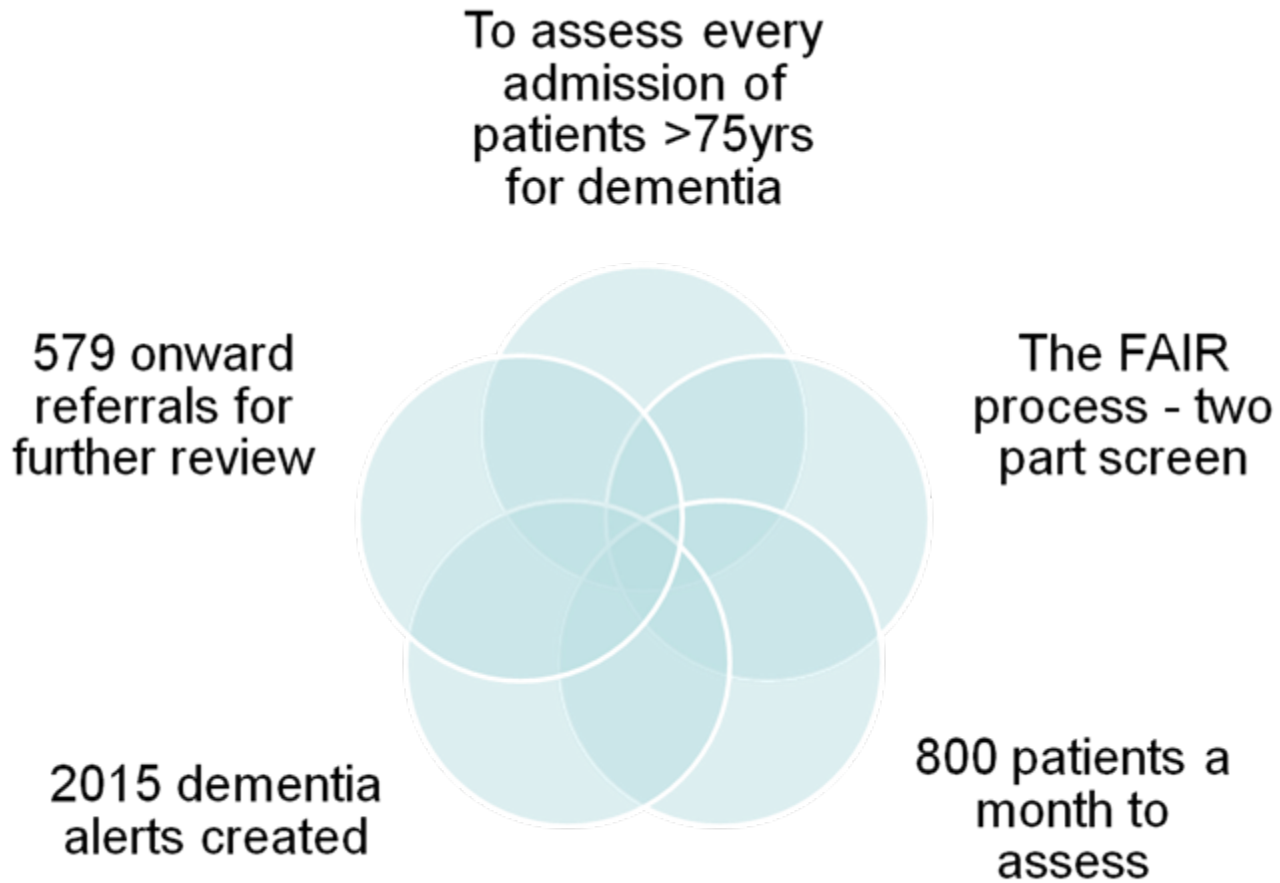


Recent Re-audit of all beds in NNUH

- 1 in 3 patients have some cognitive impairment.
- Which is around 300 in-patients across all wards in NNUH
- Plus Out Patients and Day Procedures



FAIR CQUIN Achievements



Case History - 1

- 82 year old lady
- Admitted following fall
- Husband had died 2 weeks before
- No immediate family



Case History – 1

Outcome

- Multi disciplinary assessment
- Mental health nurse
- Mental capacity assessments
- Involved Independent Mental Capacity Advocate,
- Continuing Care Assessments (CCA)
- Length of Stay (LOS) – 12 weeks



Case History - 2

- 79 year old man
- Emergency admission for ischaemic foot
- Post operative delirium

Outcome

- Complaint
- Changed practise
- Prolonged LOS Fall fractured arm



Case History - 3

- 85 year old lady
- Admitted from residential care home
- Confusion / delirium
- Urinary tract infection
- Family concerned about care



Case History 3 - Outcome



- Old Age Psychiatrist assessed
- Res Home could no longer care for her
- Not registered to care for dementia clients
- Very long LOS
- Recurrent chest infections
- End of Life Issues
- CCA moved care home

Conclusion

Effects on Hospitals

- **Hospital**
- Prolonged LOS
- Complaints
- Staff Uncertainty
- Is this delirium? Is there underlying dementia
- Wrong diagnosis attached

Effects continued

- **Families/carers**
- Crisis management
- Uncertainty
- Hospital complications
- Complex discharge planning
- End of life issues

Effects continued

- **Patient**
- Deconditioning whilst in hospital
- Increased confusion
- Environment
- Risk of fall and injury
- Risk if infection
- Risk of not returning home