An Academic Health Sciences Centre for London

Pioneering better health for all



Delivering value based healthcare

Measuring outcomes that matter to patients:

Redesigning orthopaedic care pathways to improve outcomes.



The challenge

Improving outcomes for fractured neck of femur (NOF).

- High risk group: average patient is 84 years old with complex physiological and social care needs
- High mortality rates: patients with NOF fracture have second highest 30-day mortality rates following emergency admission (only stroke has a higher mortality rate)
- Rising incidence and costs: annual incidence expected to rise to more than 90,000 by 2020, costing more than £2.2bn a year

Our intervention

To understand and adapt the complete pathway of care.

- Manage patient care on condition rather than departmental basis
- An integrated practice unit was created for patients with NOF fracture wrapping complex multidisciplinary care around these vulnerable patients
- On admission, an improved emergency department triage, patients referred to orthopaedic surgeon, orthogeriatric physician and NOF clinical nurse specialist, and admitted to a dedicated ward

Our impact

Improved outcomes, reduced costs.

- A fall from 10.4% to 5.2% in 30-day mortality. Mortality moved from above to well below the national average, which has been sustained
- Greatly reduced time to admission to a specialist ward and time to surgery
- Reduced length of stay from above to well below national average
- £1.5m to £2m estimated annual net savings