Adrian Brown
Alcohol & Older People in A&E
• A&E liaison via PAT
  • Includes Clinical Decisions unit, admission and assessment wards (and out-patients?)
• Other ward referrals can be made directly
• Alcohol withdrawal management
  • St Mary’s alcohol guidelines were reviewed comprehensively
  • Advice & support for ward staff
• Psychiatric liaison
  • Where dual diagnosis is an issue
• Brief assessment of substance misuse
• Referral to community alcohol services
1) Do you drink alcohol?

2) What is the most you will drink in any one day?

3) How often do you drink?  
   (NB daily drinking with some episodes more than twice the recommended amount)

4) Do you feel your attendance here is related to alcohol?

5) We would like to offer advice about your alcohol consumption, would you be willing to see our alcohol nurse specialist?
Reasons for attending the ED
(Alcohol issue identified)

Total = 1202

- n = 233
- n = 126
- n = 38
- n = 8
Outcome of attendance at ED

Conclusion2
Outcome of attendance at ED (age over sixty)

Eleven referrals for AHW recorded, but actual referrals are more than those recorded, usually because admission to hospital more likely or else other referral takes precedence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>AHW recorded</th>
<th>Alcohol referral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 80</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
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[Graph showing distribution of referrals by age group]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count of Episode No</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
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Issues for older people’s drinking

• Less able to attend follow up?
• More likely to develop acute problems?
• More likely to need home support?
• But also …
• May have been drinking “heavily” and only recently developed problems
• Problems of age & health can mask drinking
• Heavy drinking not identified or not considered a problem (“too late to change”)
Possible solutions

• Closer links with community services

• Outreach assessments / identification
  • At home
  • At GP
  • At day centres

• Training and awareness