

# Service Evaluation To Determine The Need For A Dedicated Senior Specialist Occupational Therapist In The Emergency Department

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## Introduction:

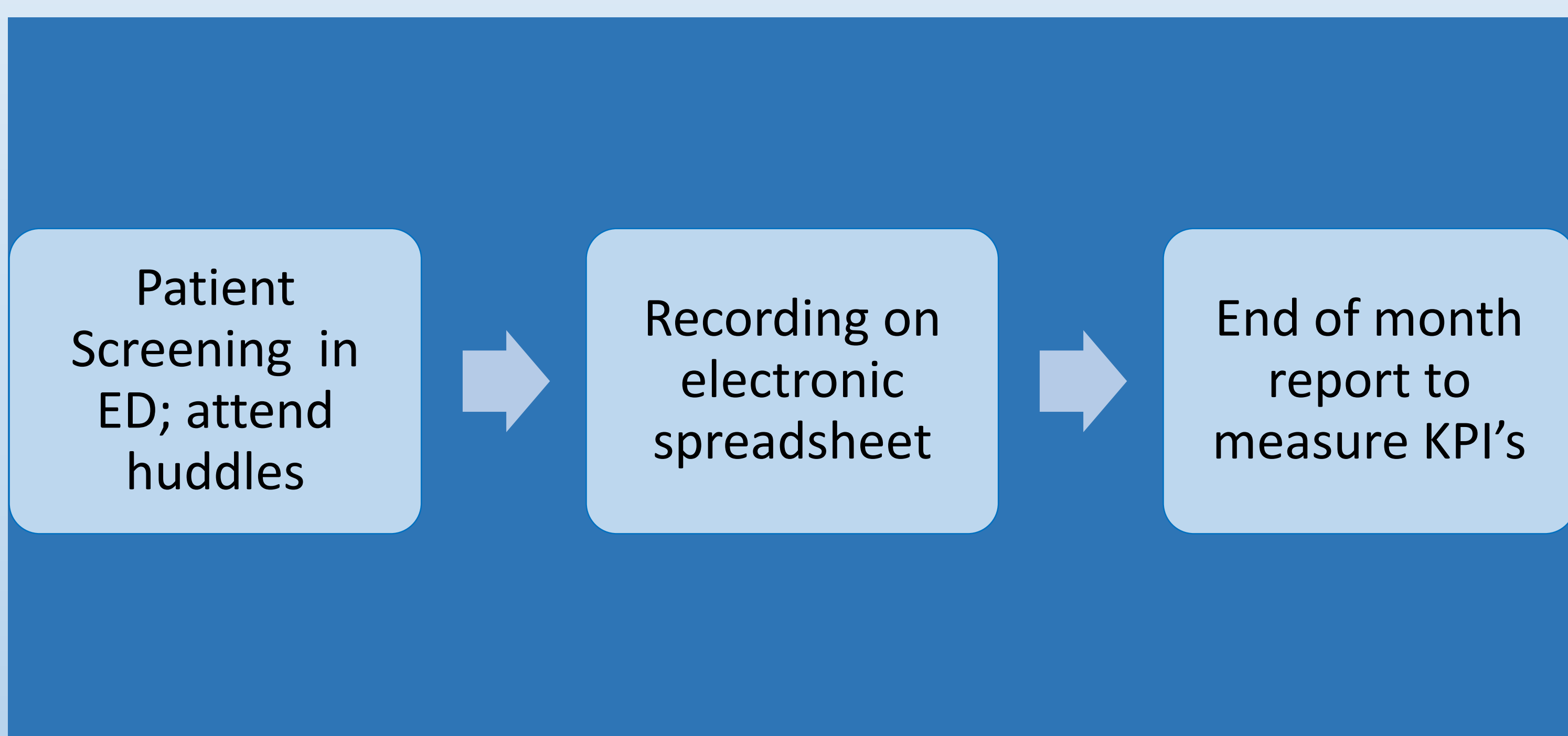
Attending Emergency Department is associated with a high risk of admissions for older people. Occupational Therapists at the "front door" of the Emergency Department enables rapid intervention to ensure patients are admitted for urgent medical needs only (BGS, 2012). St Thomas Hospital has a well established admission avoidance team, the Specialist Therapy Assessment team (STAT). The team provides cover across the emergency floor with no dedicated therapist based in the Emergency Department (ED) As a part of the winter project, the team recruited a Senior Occupational Therapist to work in the Emergency Department of St Thomas Hospital from October 2016 to March 2017. The visibility of the Senior Therapist in ED resulted to increase in therapy referrals and effective patient flow by facilitating therapy discharges direct from ED. Due to the success of the previous winter project, winter funding has been granted to the Specialist Therapy Assessment Team from 2017 to date. This service evaluation endeavour to answer the question "Do we need a dedicated senior occupational therapist in the emergency department of St Thomas' Hospital?"

## Aims

- ❖ To evaluate the need for a dedicated senior occupational therapist in the emergency department
- ❖ To measure and compare the key performance indicators from winter 2016 to winter 2019

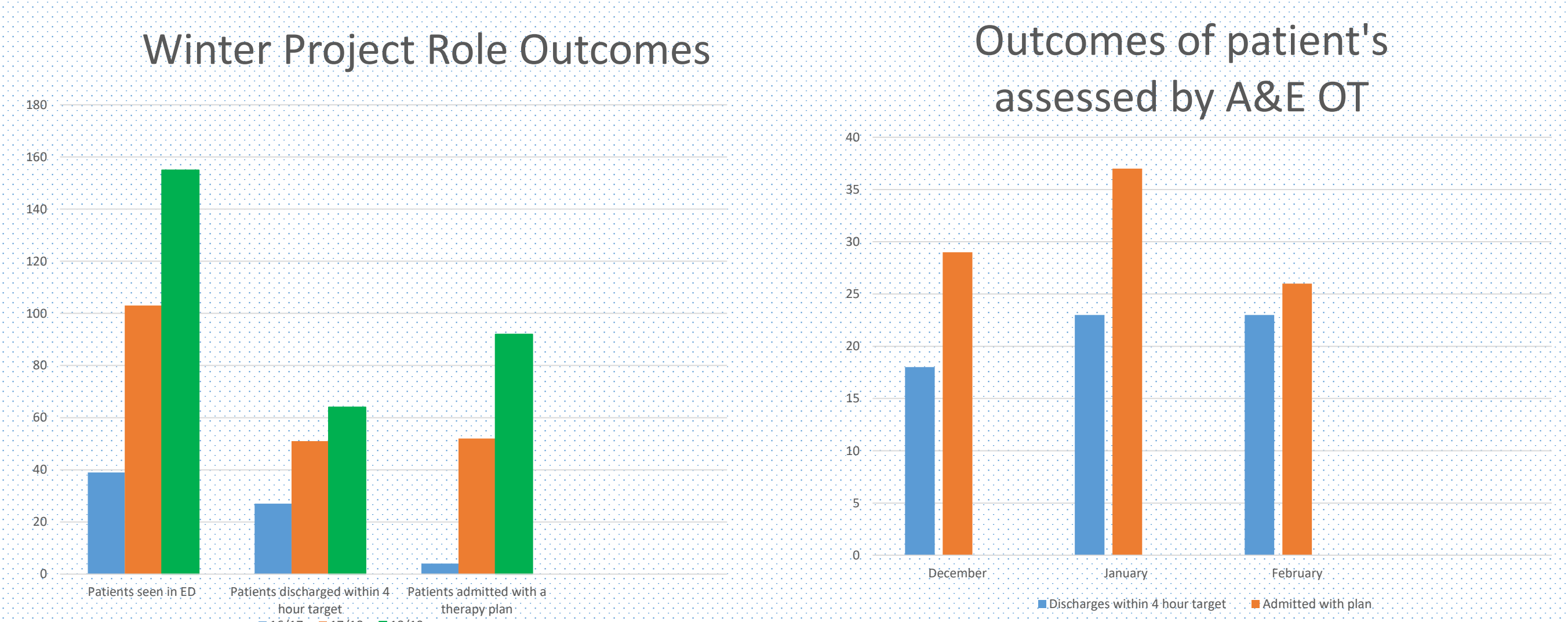
## Method

- ❖ Retrospective data collection from Winter 2016- Winter 2019 to measure the set Key Performance Indicators (KPI'S): Number of patient's seen in ED, Number of patients discharged from ED within 4 hour target, Percentage of patients admitted with therapy plan



- ❖ Feedback collection from the Multidisciplinary team in ED . 8/10 Dr's have returned their feedback form at the end of the Winter project in March 2019

## Results and Feedback



Extremely helpful, immediate- time critical assessment for speedy assisted discharge - ED ST3

Prevented many admissions - ED SHO

Simply excellent and hoping to extend - ED Consultant

## Conclusion

- ❖ Having a dedicated senior occupational therapist in ED leads to early identification and assessment of patients who require therapy
- ❖ The number of therapy assessment within ED has increased resulting in increase discharges direct from ED
- ❖ The number of patients admitted with therapy plan was 23 times the baseline figures leading to shorter hospital stay
- ❖ The feedback from the MDT demonstrates the value of the role. The common themes include early assessment in ED, cost effective, admission avoidance, great impact in patient flow and improved patient experience
- ❖ Business case was completed to make the role substantive

## References

NHS England, 2019, Long Term Plan, Available at: [www.longterplan.nhs.uk](http://www.longterplan.nhs.uk). Accessed: 29/01/2019

British Geriatric Society, 2012, Silver book: Quality Care for Older people with Urgent & Emergency Care needs. Available at: [www.bgs.org.uk/resources/silver-book](http://www.bgs.org.uk/resources/silver-book) Accessed: 29/01/2019

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