The Health Service Executive (HSE), Health Research Board (HRB) and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) commitment to the Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety (RCQPS) has been renewed for a further three years, with the HSE and HRB pledging over €1.65m in funding for quality and patient and safety research. The RCQPS has the aim of generating new research evidence in response to specific quality and patient safety issues that emerge from the Irish Health Service, in particular those arising from the HSE’s National Clinical Programmes.

Representatives from the National Acute Medicine Programme attended the RCQPS workshop in February where they had the opportunity to meet researchers and learn more about how their expertise can be used to answer proposed research questions that the NAMP team had developed relating to quality and patient safety.

The NAMP have submitted their proposed research question around the effectiveness of the implementation of the National Acute Medicine Programme. If NAMP are successful with this three year research study, it will inform recommendations for future development and implementation of the National Acute Medicine Programme to enable it to reach its aims in improving quality, access to and cost of care.

In 2014 the Health Service Executive commissioned the 3S group – Dublin Institute of Technology to review and optimise the performance of the acute medicine programme introduced in a number of Irish hospitals. This study proved to be very successful. The DIT research group showed that Patient Experience Times (PETs) in Acute Medical Units (AMUs) were 2-3hrs compared to 6-7hr in ED. Reduction in ED PETs and AvLOS will create cost savings across the service as well as better patient experience and outcomes. If NAMP are successful with the research question, they aim to achieve further improvements. We will keep you updated on the outcome of this process.

We discussed in the last article that the National Acute Medicine Programme submitted a proposed research question to the Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety (RCQPS) around the effectiveness of the implementation of the programme. Unfortunately, the programme was not successful in being chosen for funding but have been given tips on areas to strengthen.