Ambulatory Care: The NAMP has recently published the Framework for Ambulatory Care on the Acute Floor. This framework is designed to support services in developing and/or enhancing Ambulatory Care. To put the need for Ambulatory Care into context an outline of the current & future demand on acute hospital capacity is discussed. The Framework also provides a substantial data report of the profile of acute medical activity in Irish hospitals, in 2017, with a particular focus on the utilisation of beds and demand on acute services from patients presenting with the highest volume of clinical conditions, all of which can be categorised within the spectrum of chronic disease.

The NAMP continues to gather and analyse monthly KPI data from 28 AMU/AMAU/MAUs nationally. Data collated focuses on the volume of registered patients following the NAMP pathway, including Ambulatory patients and patient experience times (PET). The data recorded also includes the use of AMU space for ‘boarding’ which presents a significant risk to the appropriate use of AMUs and management of acutely unwell medical patients.

Survey Report: A gap analysis undertaken with all participating units was completed in 2018 and two separate reports, one for Model 3 & 4 hospitals and one for Model 2 hospitals were shared with key stakeholders in December 2018. The survey findings will inform future programme work on ensuring the model of care is being implemented fully across all participating units.

The ‘Acute Floor’ Model for Ireland: A key strategic action of the SlainteCare Implementation Strategy and a key priority for the HSE 2019 National Service Plan is the introduction of the ‘Acute Floor Model’ which ‘will provide a platform for enabling frontline change, with a single point of access through the ‘Acute Floor Hub’ to unscheduled care, with clinical leaders working in a coordinated multi-disciplinary and patient-centred way such that patients are treated and discharged without delay by the most appropriate senior clinician’. The NAMP team has been pivotal in the progression of the ‘Acute Floor’ model which originated in the NAMP model of care (HSE/RCPI 2010), the team is also integral to the design and development of the forthcoming Acute Floor Information System (AFIS). This system will provide for the real time electronic recording of patient flow and interventions across the Acute Floor.
NAMP Nursing Update: by end of year 2018 117 nurses working in acute medical units across Ireland will have completed the 12 week Level 8 Certificate in Acute Medicine Nursing. Cohort 4 will commence in January 2019. Of the 23 candidate ANPs Acute Medicine appointed through the Department of Health Chief Nurse Demonstrator Project which commenced in September 2017, one has successfully registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board.

A cANP / RANP forum was established by NAMP in April 2018. Membership is also representative of the Higher Education Institutes providing the educational preparation programmes for advanced practice, along with Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development Unit advanced practice project officers. The forum serves to enable face to face networking and sharing opportunities for candidates, to support candidates by access to RANPs, to identify areas for initiation and expansion of ANP roles, scopes of practice, design of nurse led service patient pathways, integration and linkages with fellow nurses and other service providers. The forum has hosted presentations by the Department of Health Advanced Practice project team, the DoH ANP demonstrator programme evaluation research team, and RANPs from a range of clinical care programmes. Linkages have been forged with other ANP representative groups and potential areas for collaborative work in 2019 are currently being considered. Planning, led by acute medicine cANPs is underway for a cANP / RANP nurse led service innovation and integration seminar to be held in 2019.

An expert advisory group chaired by the DoN NAMP completed its work on defining opportunities for the development of Advanced Practice (Nursing) Acute Medicine in November. Following extensive literature reviews, focus groups, stakeholder consultation, site visits and reviewing written submission, a “Guiding Framework for sites Developing ANPs Acute Medicine” was published in December 2018. It provides a model for integrated Advanced Nursing Practice - Acute Medicine. Work commenced with nurse leads on the Emergency Medicine and Surgical Clinical Care Programmes, facilitated by the Informatics Officer ONMSD, in the identification of key nursing data sets which will be relevant to design of the Acute Floor Information System and electronic nursing records.
‘Right Care, Every Time: Pursuing Excellence in Acute Medicine’ took place on Tuesday, September 18th 2018 at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI). The conference theme focused on ensuring Acute Medical patients receive safe, high quality care in the most appropriate environment.

Dr Daniel Beckett, Chair SAM Scotland, Scottish Govt. specialty advisor for Acute & General Medicine and National Clinical Lead, Whole Systems Patient Flow Project, Scotland delivered an illuminating presentation on Acute Medicine from the Scottish perspective talking about essential actions, patient flow and realistic medicine. Ian Setchfield & Oliver Phipps: Acute Care Nurse Consultants & Advanced Practice leads East Kent NHS Foundation Trust spoke about the history of advanced clinical practice and its implementation into urgent care setting in the NHS. Dr Sara Burke, Health Policy Analyst, Trinity College, Dublin updated the audience on SlainteCare, whilst Alison Enright, HSCP Development Manager, Health & Social Care Professions Office presented a paper on the Discharge to Assess Model which focuses on bringing healthcare to the home. Eimir Hurley HRB PhD Scholar in Population Health & Health Science presented the data which was collated and analysed to inform the development of the Framework for Ambulatory Care on the Acute Floor. Professor Paul Ridgway, Consultant Upper GI, HBP & General Surgeon & National Clinical Advisor Acute Surgery Programme spoke about the collaboration work that is ongoing across the relevant national clinical programmes to ensure the Acute Floor Model for Ireland is implemented and is successful and sustainable. Emily Bury, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, AMU, SVUH outlined the bespoke Virtual Clinic telemedicine system developed in the Acute Medical unit in SVUH. Finally Dr Brian Carey gave an enlightening presentation on the management of Syncope in Acute Medicine patients. The conference was very well attended and the programme team received very positive feedback.