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## INTRODUCTION

Suicide is the most common cause of death among young and middle aged Irish men. People who have self-harmed are recognised as being at increased risk of completing suicide. From the National Self-Harm registry we know that up to 25% of people who have self-harmed will leave Emergency Department (ED) without a completed biopsychosocial assessment. Ensuring people receive a comprehensive biopsychosocial assessment and linkage to next appropriate care has been shown to reduce the rate of repeat self-harm, and thereby reduce the number of completed suicide. A Model of Care has been introduced to improve the patient journey through the ED on to next appropriate care.

## PRACTICE CHANGE IMPLEMENTED

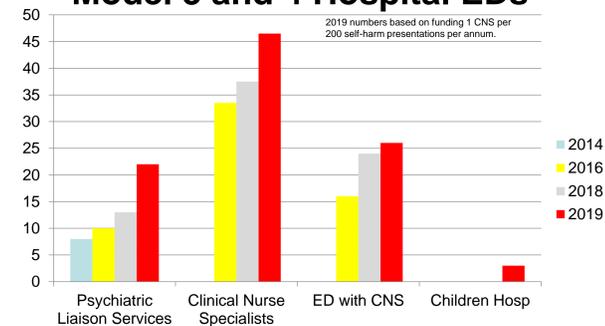
The Model of Care has 4 components resulting in patients and their families receiving a timely expert response. This involves integration between the ED, the Acute Hospital and the Mental Health Services.



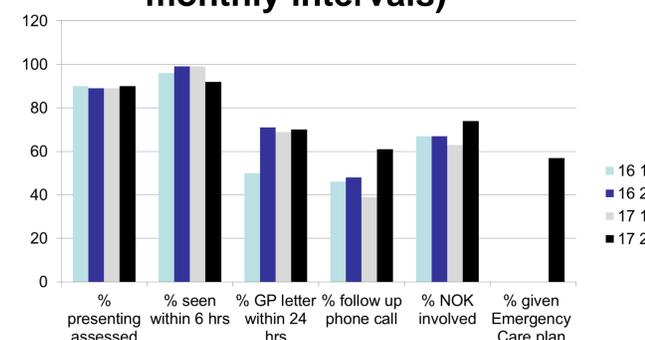
## RESULTS

The Programme is implemented in 24 of the 26 Adult 24/7 Emergency Departments (ED) in the country. It is about to be introduced to all including the 3 Dublin Paediatric EDs. Mental Health services have funded Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) to work within the ED.

### Mental Health Staffing within Model 3 and 4 Hospital EDs



### Data for 16 Hospitals in 2016 and 22 Hospitals in 2017 (reported at six monthly intervals)



## CONCLUSION

This clinical programme has changed the service offered to patients who present to the Emergency Department (ED) following self-harm. 90% of those presenting now receive a biopsychosocial assessment. A qualitative review of the operation of the programme found that ED staff value the service. Patient satisfaction surveys have been completed in a small number of services and these show a high level of satisfaction. Key to the success has been that Mental Health Services have funded the mental health posts, and the staff are working within the ED of the Acute Hospitals. Clinical Nurse Specialists and Non Consultant Hospitals Doctors are supervised by Consultant Psychiatrists. The programme provides a framework that can be adapted for local services.

## WEBSITE

More information related to the Programme is available on <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/mental-health/self-harm/>

## The Patient Journey

