



Age-Friendly Healthcare in the Mid West: The Geriatric Emergency Medicine Unit

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#PFA24

FSS an Iarthar Láir
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Background

“Older persons are now the purpose of healthcare and not the problem”

CCO, August 2023

**Ageing population means
elderly are now 'purpose' of
health system — Dr Henry**





The GEM Unit

Opened in 2023

Age-attuned environment

Nine assessment spaces

Governed by Emergency Medicine

Older adults stream to the unit direct from triage

Promotion of shared-decision making and holistic care planning



Hogervorst, Vera M., et al. "Emergency department management of older people living with frailty: a guide for emergency practitioners." *Emergency Medicine Journal* 38.9 (2021): 724-729.



The GEM Unit





Methodology – 6 Year Journey



Age-Friendly
Health Systems

Age-Friendly Health Systems

A Guide to Using
the 4Ms While Caring
for Older Adults

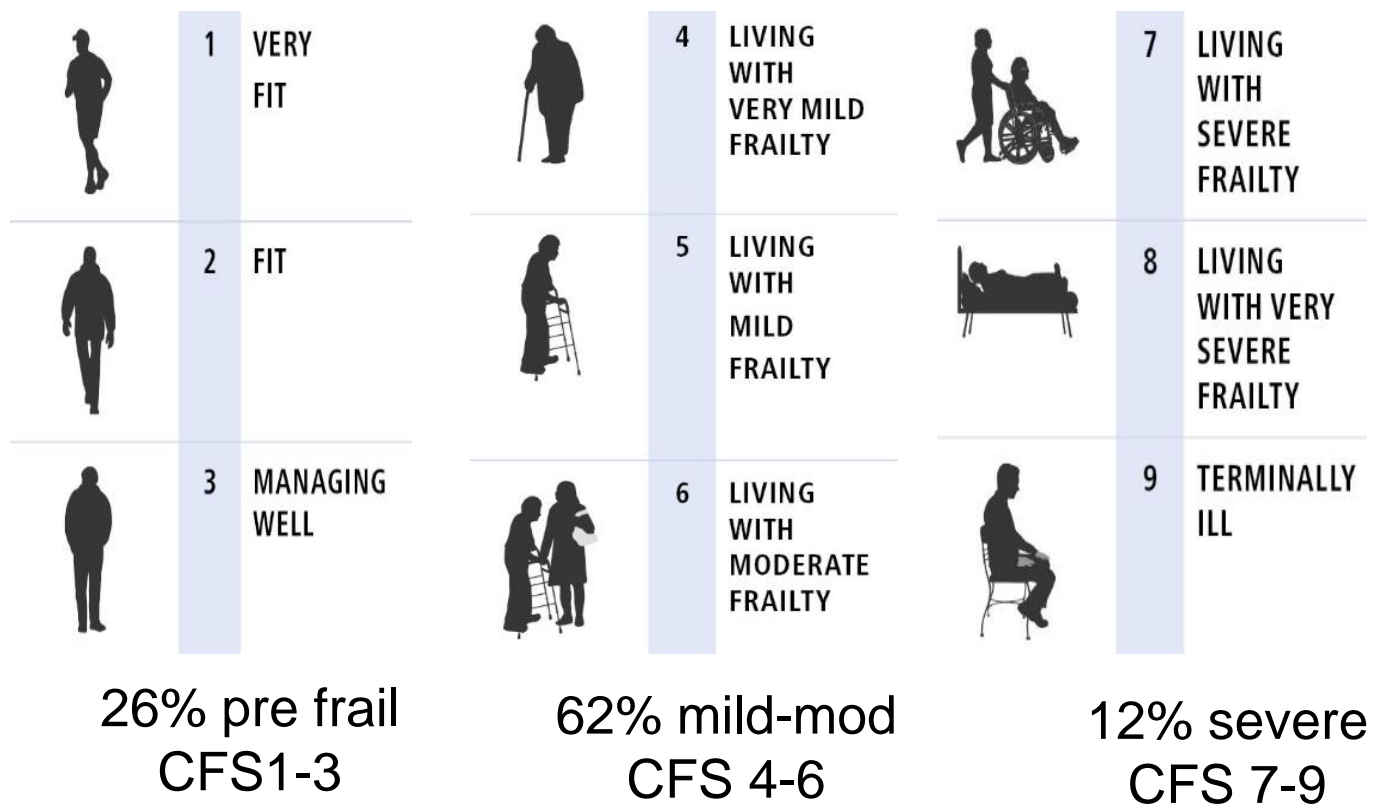
Editors: Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN and Leslie Pelton, MPA
Associate Editors: Jinghan Zhang, MPH and Wendy Huang, MHA





Results – Baseline Characteristics

Clinical Frailty Scale





Results – Process Outcomes

Outcome	N = 1310*
Discharge home, n (%)	717 (54.7%)
Admission Model 4, n (%)	445 (34.0%)
Admission Model 2, n (%)	148 (11.3%)
30-day unscheduled ED revisit, n (%)	175 (13.4%)

*HSCP data Q1–3, Monday-Friday 08:00-20:00





Results – Patient Experience Times

Outcome	Hours
Total cohort, median (IQR)	18.2 (7.5 – 28.8)
Discharge, median (IQR)	9.2 (5.5 – 19.6)
Admission, median (IQR)	28.1 (17.2 – 44.3)
24-Hour PET breach, n (%)	459 (35%)





Integration of Care

732 alternative care pathways referrals

Pathway	N
Community Specialist Teams for Older People	128
Public Health Nurse	104
Multidisciplinary Community Intervention Team	92
PCCC Physiotherapy	84
Home Help	79
Community Intervention Team	63
PCCC Occupational Therapy	50
Other	132

Condon, Brian, et al. "Older adults experience of transition to the community from the emergency department: a qualitative evidence synthesis." *BMC geriatrics* 24.1 (2024): 233.





Discussion

Challenges/Opportunities

Patient Flow

Location

Service Development



O'Shaughnessy, Íde, et al. "Effectiveness of acute geriatric unit care on functional decline, clinical and process outcomes among hospitalised older adults with acute medical complaints: a systematic review and meta-analysis." *Age and ageing* 51.4 (2022): afac081.



Thank you

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