

Seminar Series

The University of Melbourne

Improving outcomes for older people with emergency and urgent care needs



Presenter: Professor Andrew Street
on behalf of the Emergency Care for Frail Older People (ECOP) team

Wednesday 25 August 4pm-5pm

Via Zoom [https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/83796555483?](https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/83796555483?pwd=eUNUa2J1QXE1bG10TlZoa29RWWhkwZz09)
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Older people with emergency and urgent care (EUC) needs, in particular those with frailty, are especially vulnerable to harms that can arise in this care pathway. In this seminar I present emerging findings from econometric analyses forming part of a wider study of EUC pathways for older people.

We use patient-level data covering 2011-2017 for more than 1.2m attendances by people aged 75+ to an emergency department (ED) in the Yorkshire and Humber region in England. We track the patient journey from the initial emergency call, ambulance journey, and admission to and discharge from the ED or hospital.

We analyse three ED outcomes: whether patients were seen within four hours of arrival; were admitted from ED to hospital; and ED re-attendance. The most important predictors were the call-handlers designation of the urgency of the patient's condition.

For those admitted to hospital, we analyse length of stay (LoS), in-hospital mortality and 30-day readmission. We find that frailty, measured using the Hospital Frailty Risk Score (HFRS), is a powerful predictor of LoS and in-hospital mortality, but less so of emergency readmissions.

The econometric analysis has identified ED sites exemplifying promising pathways that now are the subject of qualitative fieldwork and also supports development of a system dynamics computer simulation model to be used to evaluate EUC interventions in different settings.

This work is supported by NIHR grant 17/05/96.

Professor Andrew Street joined the Department of Health Policy at the London School of Economics in September 2017. Previously he was at the University of York, which he joined in 1995, and where he was Director of the Health Policy team in the Centre for Health Economics and Director of the Economics of Social and Health Care Research Unit (ESHCRU).

He has worked on secondment for health ministries in Australia (1993) and England (2005), served as editor of the *Journal of Health Economics* (2006-2018), board member of the NIHR Health Services and Delivery Research Commissioning Board (2010-2017) and the Research Council of Norway's Health and Care Services Board (2011-2013), and as specialist advisor to the House of Commons Health & Care Committee for budget related inquiries (2016-2019).

Andrew has published more than 120 peer-reviewed journal articles on topics including health system productivity, hospital efficiency, hospital payment arrangements and DRG-funding, organisational performance measurement, patient reported outcomes, integrated health and social care, frailty assessment of older people, and econometric analyses of variation in costs, length of stay and outcomes among patients.