



**RAPID ACCESS CLINIC SERVICE**

13 JUNE 2012

Dear Doctor

**THE SERVICE**

The Rapid Access Clinic will be based in Lurgan Day Hospital, Mullinure Day Hospital and South Tyrone Day Hospital. They will provide a specialist service for patients over the age of 65 and resident in the Southern Trust Area. This will be provided by a senior doctor and a multi-professional team with immediate access to laboratories, routine radiology and ECG investigations.

**THE OBJECTIVES**

To enable the General Practitioners and the Accident & Emergency Department to have access within 72 hours to comprehensive geriatric assessment for those patients who otherwise might be referred directly to hospital for admission or to the accident and emergency department.

**THE PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Rapid Access Clinic is to improve quality of care for older patients and prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital.

## **THE REFERRAL PROCESS**

1. GPs/A&Es will have a single point access link to the service.
2. Referrals can be made by faxing a referral letter to

**LURGAN HOSPITAL      028 38 61 3042**  
**MULLINURE HOSPITAL 028 3741 2405**  
**SOUTH TYRONE HOSPITAL 028 8771 3608**

3. Direct GP access to a Senior Doctor for patient discussion will be available by telephoning

**LURGAN HOSPITAL      028 38 61 3032**  
**MULLINURE HOSPITAL 028 3741 2136/37412094**  
**SOUTH TYRONE HOSPITAL 028 8771 3459**

4. Patients who meet the inclusion criteria will be transported to the clinic via family or ambulance service.
5. All patients will have a full medical and nursing assessment and where indicated a full assessment by all members of the multi-disciplinary team.
6. Routine laboratory, radiology, ECG will be available.
7. An active problem list and action plan will be constructed.
8. The discharge letter, which will include the action plan will be faxed to the GP on the same day or next working day. Patients will receive a copy of the action plan.

## **CRITERIA FOR REFERRAL**

Patients with subacute illness who may otherwise require hospital admission within 48-72 hours.

## **INCLUSION:**

Reasons for referral may include:

1. New mobility problems
2. Falls
3. Acute balance impairment
4. Mild chest infections
5. Urinary tract infections
6. New onset of confusion.

## **EXCLUSION:**

Patients requiring acute medical care eg

1. New Stroke
2. Suspected myocardial infarction
3. Suspected fracture
4. Significant arrhythmia
5. Moderate to severe chest infection
6. GIT haemorrhage
7. Diabetic emergency.

If you require any further information please contact the Day Hospitals on

**LURGAN HOSPITAL      028 38 61 3032**  
**MULLINURE HOSPITAL 028 3741 2136/37412094**  
**SOUTH TYRONE HOSPITAL 028 8771 3459**

Yours sincerely

**DR P MCCAFFREY**  
**CONSULTANT GERIATRICIAN**