

Imminence of Death amongst NHS Ayrshire and Arran Hospital Inpatients

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Abbreviated abstract: Research in 2014 by David Clark et al found that 28.8 % of hospital inpatients died within 12 months. Post Covid-19 we repeated this at a local level to see if there had been any change. Our data showed that 31.2% of hospital inpatients died within one year of admission and that 9.2% of patients died within their index admission. This data should assist in realistic medicine strategies as well as palliative care identification and implementation.

Related publications: Clark D, Armstrong M, Allan A, Graham F, Carnon A, Isles C. Imminence of death among hospital inpatients: Prevalent cohort study. *Palliat Med.* 2014 Jun;28(6):474-479. doi: 10.1177/0269216314526443. PMID: 24637342; PMCID: PMC4845030.

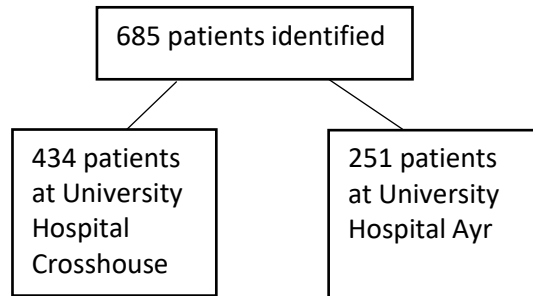
Previous work, challenge, and approach

Previous work as mentioned overleaf by David Clark et al in 2010 identified 10,743 inpatients in 25 Scottish teaching and general hospitals on 31 March 2010. Their outcome point was death at end points 7 days, 30 days, 3 months, 6 months, 9 months, 12 months. They showed that 28.8% of patients were dead within one year. There has been a lot of media attention given to rates of death since the Covid-19 pandemic and we wished to repeat this data at a local level to see if there had been an increase.

Techniques and Methods

A retrospective cohort study of all inpatients at University Hospital Crosshouse (UHC) and University Hospital Ayr (UHA) on 31/03/2021 was performed. This was the same date as used in the original study. Data was collated by Business Intelligence and analysed by the researchers.

685 inpatients, excluding paediatrics and obstetrics, were identified. The breakdown of this was 434 inpatients at UHC and 251 at UHA. This was divided into 318 males and 367 females.



Results and Conclusions

In all 214 patients died at follow up = 214- 31.2% (28.8%); at 7 days: 22- 3.2% (2.9%), 30 days: 78- 11.4% (8.9%), 3 months: 123- 18% (16%), 6 months: 162- 23.6% (21.2%), 9 months: 199- 29% (25.5%) and 1 year: 214- 31.2% (28.8%). Numbers in bracket are a comparison to the original study. Our figures are very similar to those from 2010 and highlight the importance of HPCT.

