

An exploration of the costs and benefits of a Community CNS being skilled in Advanced Clinical Assessment & Examination to both Patients and the Hospice



Authors: Helen Teed, Dr Sally Boa and Dr Lyndsay Cardwell
Strathcarron Hospice,

BACKGROUND

Advanced assessment and clinical examination (ACE) skills, have become more widely used by nurses in response to developing healthcare capacity and can improve person-centred care (Raleigh & Allan, 2016). Historically, the Community CNS team have not been trained in ACE which has meant that when this is needed, patients have had to wait for a GP to attend.

AIMS

To determine the costs and benefits of a CNS having ACE skills were to both patients and the hospice.

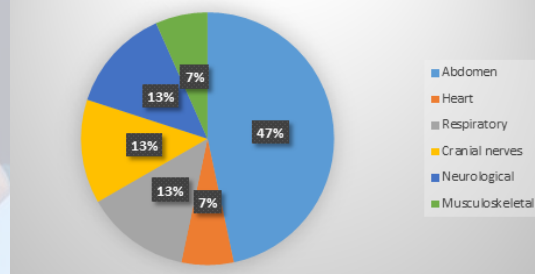
METHODS

The use of ACE skills was captured for every home visit over a two-month period. The type of examination was recorded as well as the outcome. Quantitative data around additional time taken by the CNS to use these skills and consideration of the financial cost to the hospice were also calculated.

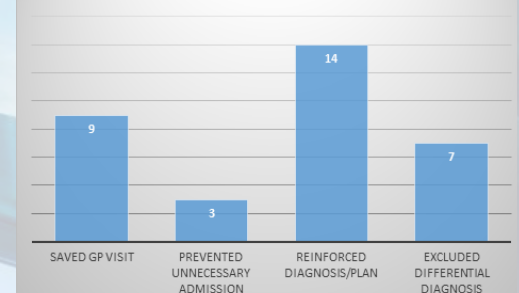
RESULTS

Examinations were carried out at a third of all visits during the study period (14 out of 43 visits). In all instances, ACE skills increased the CNS's level of confidence in their diagnosis and proposed management plan.

Type of Examinations undertaken



Outcome of Examination



CONCLUSION

The ability to examine patients was well used by the CNS. It led to improved patient outcomes by avoiding delays to treatment, the need for additional visits from other Healthcare professionals and, in some instances, avoided admissions, in-keeping with the Scottish Government's Palliative Care Strategy (Scottish Government, 2024)