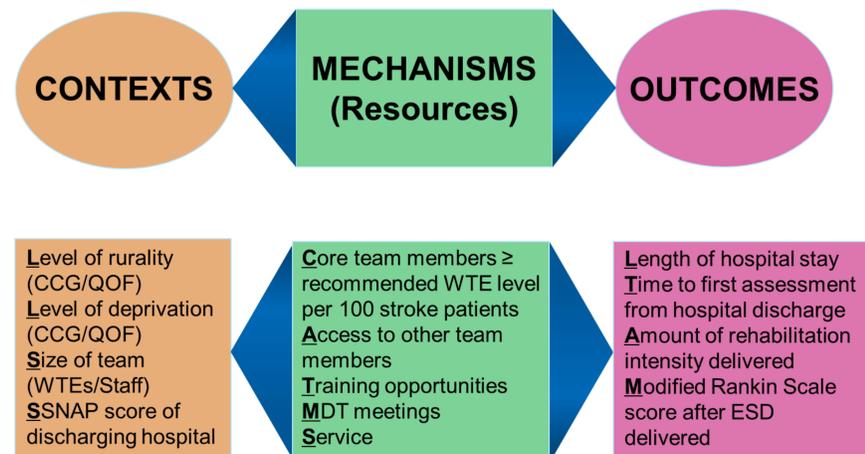


Large scale implementation of stroke Early Supported Discharge: Effectiveness of services in real world conditions

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INTRODUCTION

Implementation of stroke Early Supported Discharge (ESD) services has been recommended in national clinical guidelines, based on clinical trial evidence. This observational study investigated the effectiveness of ESD service models operating in real world conditions as part of a wider realist evaluation approach.



METHODS

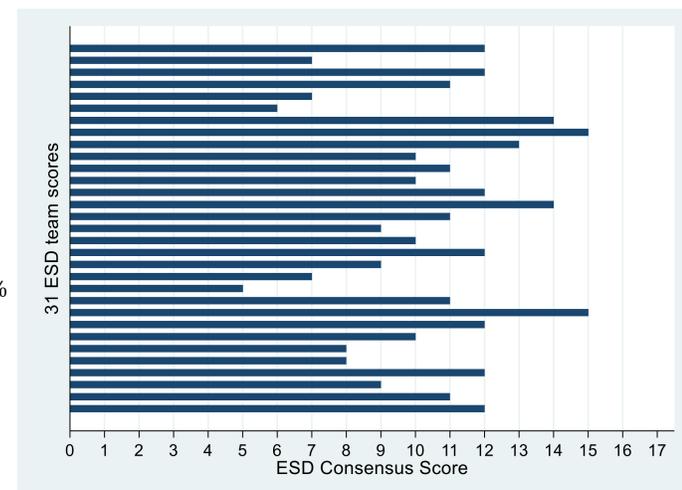
- Historical prospective Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP) data (1 Jan 2016 – 31 Dec 2016)
- Outcome measures: responsiveness (time from hospital discharge to first contact; n = 6,222); rehabilitation intensity (total number of treatment days / total days with ESD; n = 5,891); and stroke survivor outcome (modified Rankin Scale; n = 6,222)
- ESD services (derived from 2015 SSNAP post-acute organisational audit data) were examined with a 17-item score
- Patients were clustered within ESD teams (n = 31) and multilevel modelling analysis was undertaken

ESD Consensus Score Components	Yes	No	% of 31 ESD teams
Core team members meeting or exceeding recommended WTE level per 100 stroke patients:			
Doctors ≥ 0.1	1	0	9.7%
Nurses ≥ 0.4	1	0	48.4%
Occupational therapists ≥ 1	1	0	48.4%
Physiotherapists ≥ 1	1	0	48.4%
Speech and language therapists ≥ 0.3	1	0	71.0%
Access to other team members:			
Clinical psychologists	1	0	48.4%
Social workers	1	0	12.9%
Rehabilitation assistants	1	0	100%
Training opportunities:			
Nurses	1	0	67.7%
Therapists	1	0	96.8%
Rehabilitation assistants	1	0	96.8%
MDT meetings:			
Weekly meetings	1	0	96.8%
Core team attend	1	0	22.6%
ESD member attends acute meeting	1	0	71.0%
Service:			
Stroke specific	1	0	100%
Median waiting time between referral and ESD ≤ 1 day	1	0	64.5%
Weekly service > 5 days	1	0	45.2%

RESULTS

ESD team score range displays variability among the teams and our multilevel model setup uncovered the following results controlling for patient characteristics and ESD team level variables for each multilevel model – significant results at 5%:

- ESD team score ↑ 1 unit ⇒ responsiveness ↑ odds 29%
- Core team members meeting or exceeding recommended WTE level per 100 stroke patients ↑ 1 unit ⇒ responsiveness ↑ odds 47%
- Access to social workers ↑ 1 unit ⇒ responsiveness ↑ odds 97%
- Access to doctors ↑ 1 unit ⇒ responsiveness ↓ odds 87%
- ESD team score ↑ 1 unit ⇒ rehabilitation intensity ↑ by 2%
- Multidisciplinary team meetings ↑ 1 unit ⇒ rehabilitation intensity ↑ by 8%
- ESD team score ↑ 1 unit ⇒ modified Rankin Scale ↑↓



CONCLUSION

This study has shown that adopting defined core components of ESD is associated with providing a more responsive and intensive ESD service. This shows that adherence to evidence based criteria is required for services to be effective.

