

## **Ambulatory Care and Keeping Sick Children Out of Hospital: The Wheezy Child**

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### **Aims**

Over 20% of ED attendances are by infants, children and young people and of these patients, 45% of children need a period of observation (< 12 hours). This often requires an inpatient bed, subsequently putting extra strain on an already burdened inpatient service and causing avoidable disruption to patient care.

The paediatric Ambulatory Care Experience, "ACE", team is at the forefront of paediatric urgent ambulatory care in Bradford and the first of its kind in West Yorkshire. The aim of the team is to keep sick children out of hospital, providing family and child-centred acute care at home. The team went live in December 2017, launching their first pathway, the wheezy child.

### **Methods**

Results for the wheezy child pathway have been collected over a period of 13 months. The pathway involves patients with a wheeze seen in primary or secondary care, who need a further period of observation but can remain at home. If patients meet the criteria for ambulatory care the ACE nurses will deliver care at the child's home by providing regular reviews in the community along with consultant led telephone handovers. If deemed necessary the ACE team can refer the child for inpatient care if they deteriorate.

### **Results/Conclusions**

344 children were referred to the ACE team of whom 298 met the criteria for their care. The team reviewed 285 children; the remainder were referred for inpatient review.

Out of the 285 children 84% remained at home, 15% were referred to the paediatric assessment unit for further review, and 1% were referred to the ED.

The introduction of the pathway has demonstrated a total of 337 bed days were saved for the trust. This service therefore not only reduces admissions but provides a safe, patient centred approach to paediatric ambulatory care.