

'Understanding and improving outcomes for people with Parkinson's Disease in the general hospital' – June 2021

Parkinson's Disease (PD) is a common neurological condition that causes motor symptoms such as bradykinesia, stiffness and tremor, as well as non-motor components which include psychiatric symptoms such as hallucinations, delusions, depression and anxiety.

Even adjusting for age people with PD are more likely to be admitted to hospital than people without PD. The most common reasons for admission, although related to their PD, are not a direct consequence of the disease. Pneumonia, urinary tract infections, and falls are the most frequently recorded. This means they are not always cared for by PD specialists during their stay. While in hospital, on the whole, they have worse outcomes than people without PD; they are more likely to stay longer, fall, suffer medical complications and die in hospital

Understanding the challenges of caring for people with PD in different hospital settings and identifying areas of inpatient healthcare where these impact most, will help generate strategies to improve outcomes for PD patients in the general hospital.

Aim:

The study proposes to identify aspects of hospital care that predict poor outcomes in PD admissions and understand the reasons for them.

Objectives:

Describe:

We will describe the outcomes of people with PD admitted to hospital over a 2 year period including; length of stay, morbidity, mortality, falls, adverse incidents, readmission within 90 days and changes in social care arrangements on discharge.

Compare:

We will compare outcomes for patients admitted to different areas of the hospital, e.g. acute medicine, orthopaedics.

We will compare outcomes for patients admitted to hospital for different reasons, in particular whether it was closely related to their PD or not.

Learn:

In areas of the hospital where people with PD have different outcomes, we will go beyond the data to explore healthcare professionals' (HCP) views on the challenges of providing care to PD patients in that environment.