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Conference Abstract

## **Integrated Care - ED Alternatives for the Ageing Population**

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### **Abstract**

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District is a regional and rural area health service. The Department of Aged Care has serviced a population of 368,822. The Illawarra Shoalhaven has a higher proportion of residents aged 75 years and older (8.5%) when compared to the NSW average (6.9%). Between 2011 and 2021 the population aged 75 years and older is expected to grow by 32%.

Since 2004, the Department of Aged Care has grown from having no formal geriatric medicine services to having acute and sub acute services on nine hospital sites covering 200 kilometres of coastline.

Having established the acute inpatients services, we have in the last three years developed integrated care services in order to promote continuity of care and prevent avoidable hospital admissions. To achieve this we have used a variety of funding initiatives to achieve e-health infrastructure and technology, training opportunities to develop e-health advanced training opportunities in both regional and rural areas.

We will present the overall acute and integrated practice showing a number of ED admission avoidance schemes including a – Residential Aged Care Clinical Advice Line (RACCAL) which then provides the following admission alternatives;

Rapid Access outpatient clinic appointments, which are available on two sites throughout the region the next day, where you will be seen by a Specialist Geriatrician plus CNC in Aged Care and an Advanced Trainee. Our treatment plan will be communicated to their GP.

An Outreach service within 48 hours with a CNC in Aged Care and an Advanced Trainee who go out to a residential aged care facility within the region.

E-health consultation within 48 hours where a CNC in Aged Care and an Advanced Trainee in Aged Care will communicate via e-health with the Geriatrician at one of the specialist sites and provide a treatment plan to the GP and to the facility within 48 hours or a direct admission to one of our sites bypassing the Emergency Department.

### **Keywords**

**ED alternatives; ehealth; aged care**

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## **PowerPoint presentation**

[https://www.conftool.net/integratedcare2014/index.php?page=downloadPaper&form\\_id=206](https://www.conftool.net/integratedcare2014/index.php?page=downloadPaper&form_id=206)

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