



## Extended Research Article

# Proactive Integrated Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry for older medical inpatients: The HOME Study RCT of its effectiveness and cost-effectiveness

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## Plain language summary

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## Plain language summary

Older patients, admitted to hospital in an emergency, usually have a complex mixture of medical, psychological and social problems. This often leads to long hospital stays.

The HOME Study compared two types of care for older patients to see if we could reduce the time they spend in hospital.

Two thousand seven hundred and forty-four patients took part. Half of the patients got usual National Health Service medical care. The other half got usual National Health Service medical care plus care from psychiatric clinicians. These clinicians worked with them, their family and their medical team to help with their psychological and social problems. The type of care that each patient got was chosen randomly (by chance, using a computer) to make the comparison fair.

Patients, and their medical teams, told us that it was helpful to have the psychiatric clinicians involved in their care. We also found that this type of care may be cost saving for the medical service in the short term. However, our results did not provide enough evidence to recommend it to reduce the time older patients spend in hospital. We still need to develop ways to improve care for older patients and avoid them having to stay in hospital for longer than necessary.

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## This article

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