

Acute illness in care homes: A 'Marmite'TM topic

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Acute illness in care homes:

exploring optimal approaches to identification &
management



Resident, family/friends

Acute illness
(or acute deterioration)



Care home



Resident, family/friends



Care home



Resident, family/friends



Primary care



Care home



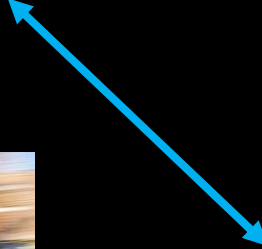
Ambulance



Resident, family/friends



Primary care



National Early Warning Score



'TRACK'

&

'TRIGGER'



<p>3-4</p>	<p>Single Observation</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Repeat observations within 30 minutes. If observations = NEWS +3 or more, seek urgent GP telephone or face to face review within 2 hours. If NEWS is worsening, move to appropriate escalation point.</p>	<p>At least every 30 minutes</p>
<p>5-6</p>		<p>Immediate clinical review/advice required. Refer to GP using surgery bypass number or use NHS 111 to contact out of hours. Urgent transfer to hospital within 1 hour may be required.</p>	<p>Every 15 minutes</p>



Love



Hate

Strong policy drivers

- National Patient Safety Improvement Programmes
- ‘Support an increase in the spread and adoption of deterioration management tools (e.g. NEWS2, RESTORE2) in at least 80% of all appropriate non-acute settings across health/social care by March 2024.’

NEWS in care homes: evidence base

Distribution of the National Early Warning Score (NEWS) in care home residents

ROBERT OLIVER BARKER¹, RACHEL STOCKER¹, SIÂN RUSSELL¹, ANTHONY ROBERTS², ANDREW KINGSTON¹, JOY ADAMSON¹, BARBARA HANRATTY¹

British Geriatrics Society
Improving healthcare for older people

BCS

Age and Ageing

- The majority of NEWS measurements not elevated
- Care home staff concern about a resident was associated with higher NEWS
- Is NEWS triggering the most appropriate response and improving outcomes?



JAMDA

journal homepage: www.jamda.com



JAMDA
The Journal of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
amda

Original Study - Brief Report

National Early Warning Scores Following Emergency Hospital Transfer: Implications for Care Home Residents



Robert O. Barker MBBS, MPH^{a,b,*}, Catherine Atkin MBChB, MD^c,
Barbara Hanratty MBChB, MD^{a,b}, Andrew Kingston PhD^a, Tim Cooksley MBChB, FRCP^d,
Adam L. Gordon PhD MBChB^{e,f}, Mark Holland MBBS, MEd^g, Thomas Knight MBBS^{c,h},
Christian P. Subbe DM, FRCP^{i,j}, Daniel S. Lasserson MD, FRCP^{k,l}

- Higher NEWS2 on admission associated with an increased risk of hospitalisation up to 7 days duration, prolonged admission, and mortality
- NEWS2 may have a role as an adjunct to acute care decision making for hospitalised residents.

Research

Siân Russell, Rachel Stocker, Robert Oliver Barker, Jennifer Liddle, Joy Adamson
and Barbara Hanratty

Implementation of the National Early Warning Score in UK care homes:

a qualitative evaluation

BJGP

British Journal of General Practice

bringing research to clinical practice

- Care home staff acknowledged that NEWS could enhance the response to acute illness
- Improved communication with the NHS
- Increased confidence of care home staff

'It does give you the backup when you're ringing for professional help ... they, kind of, listen a bit more.'

(deputy manager)

Research

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bringing research to clinical practice

- Only one third of care homes used regularly
- Implementation did not account for the complexity of intervention or setting
- Implementation challenges - competing priorities, insufficient training, and shortcomings in communication

‘I cover nine homes and I could probably straightaway think [specific care homes] are doing well with it ... But, that’s the minority. The rest are either struggling or paying lip service ... sometimes I think “would I even want them to be worrying about the NEWS scores, would I actually want them to be worrying about more basic: have they given them a drink...?”

(specialist nurse)

BMJ Open Experiences of a National Early Warning Score (NEWS) intervention in care homes during the COVID-19 pandemic: a qualitative interview study

Rachel Stocker ¹, Siân Russell,¹ Jennifer Liddle ^{1,2}, Robert O Barker,¹ Adam Remmer,³ Joanne Gray,⁴ Barbara Hanratty ^{1,2}, Joy Adamson⁵

- Facilitated remote triage and decision-making
- Care home staff felt empowerment, common clinical language
- Adjunct to staff intuition of resident deterioration

‘We’ve found in a couple of our residents, [...] they had no temperature, and no breathing difficulty, but I couldn’t understand—and when we checked their NEWS score we found oxygen saturation was low. So it helps us in the early diagnosis and to do appropriate support for the residents.’

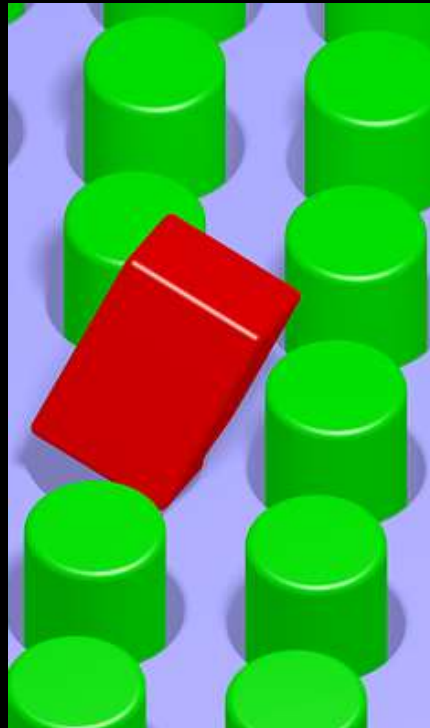
(care home manager)

Concerns

- Opportunity cost
- Medicalisation of (care) home, potential to compromise the palliative ethos in care homes
- Burden placed on care home staff to make 'medical decisions'
- False alarms > unnecessary ED attendance
- Inequity of uptake may widen quality gaps

Implementation challenges

Implementation challenges: **unique contexts**



Implementation challenges: complex interfaces



Care home



Ambulance



Resident, family/friends



Primary care



Implementation challenges: evidence gap



NEWS

Implementation
science

Implementation challenges: care home involvement

Meaningful involvement of care homes and residents
Co-production & PPIE

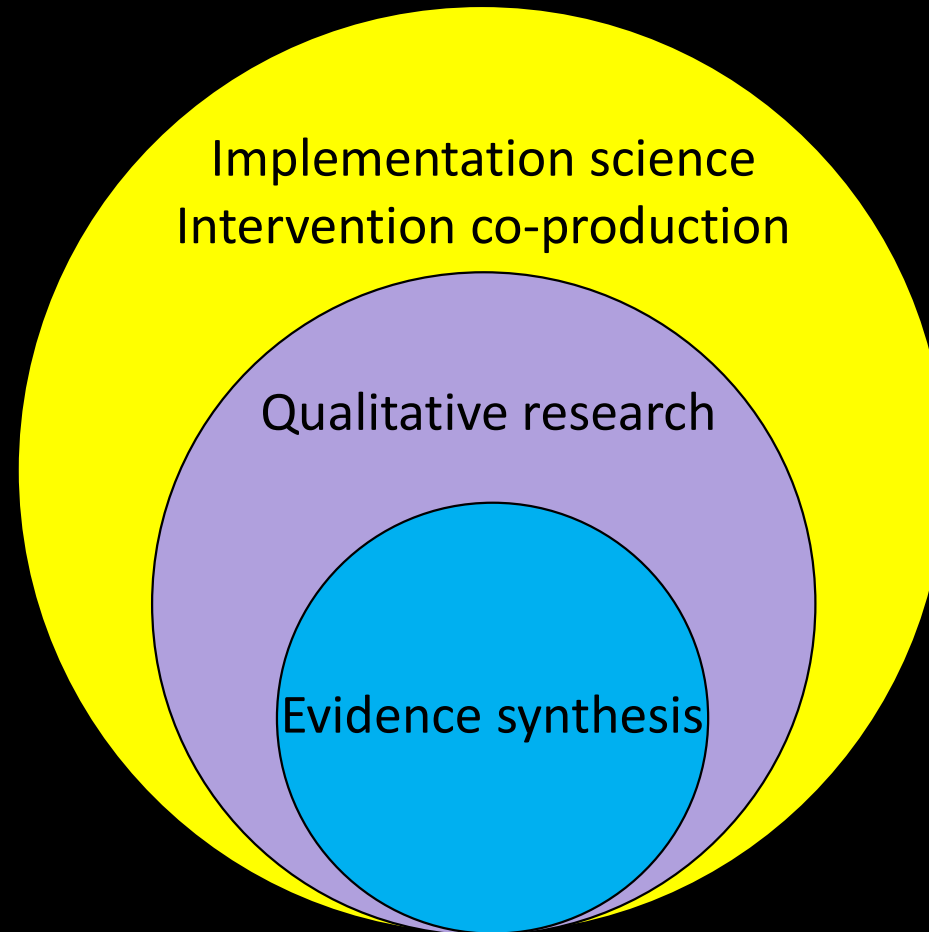


NEWS: my view

- Support carer intuition with vital sign measurement
- NEWS measurement tailored to individual circumstance
- ‘A smaller piece of the decision-making jigsaw’



Acute illness in care homes:
developing a complex intervention to enhance
identification and management



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