



## Set-up of an Acute Admission Unit - effects and approach

An Acute Admission Unit acts as a buffer between the emergency department and the hospital wards. The duration stay at an Acute Admission Unit is limited to a maximum of 48h-72h. In that first period, all diagnostics are done, and treatment is started.

### Effect on emergency departments

The concept of the Acute Admission Department was already launched in the United Kingdom in 2007 (Royal College of Physicians, 2007). The initial goal was to handle overcrowding and the access block in the emergency department.

Patients who were previously admitted to a non-critical ward from the emergency department are now transferred to the Acute Admission Unit. Because of the short length of stay and high turnover in the Acute Admission Unit, this flow can be done more smoothly than at another hospital ward.

Critical patients of course continue to go straight to the Intensive Care, Medium Care, or Stroke Unit.

### Effect on the other hospitalisation departments

For the hospital wards, there is an additional effect on the admission process. Because they take over patients from the Acute Admission Unit in a planned manner, the admission process goes more smoothly. An Acute Admission Unit therefore has an effect on the emergency department, as well as a regulatory effect on the other hospital wards.

Literature and practice show that the percentage of patients with a length of stay up to 48-72h can increase from 25-30% to 40-50% (Scott et al., 2009, NHS Chelwest, Maxima MC). These patients no longer move on to the hospital wards but are discharged directly from the Acute Admission Unit. These short admissions often place a high strain on the hospital wards because the burden of care is not linear and the hyperacute phase takes place in the Acute Admission Unit.

### Benefits of an Acute Admission Unit summarised:

- | Efficient use of capacity;
- | Increase the number of patients with a short stay;
- | Emergency department: limiting overcrowding & access block;
- | Hospitalisation ward: better regulation of the workload through planned admissions and the disappearance of short admissions.

### Hict's expertise:

Hict is happy to assist you in analysing and the setup of an Acute Admission Unit. The use of a framework allows us to support the implementation of an Acute Admission Unit in an accelerated manner. As part of this framework, we identify the necessary capacity of an Acute Admission unit and prepare the departments involved to deal with the new processes.

Are you interested in this approach and the possibilities? Please contact us for further information about the practical implementation of an Acute Admission Unit.

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