

Interdisciplinary, not Multidisciplinary Assessment in the Neuro-Rehabilitation Outpatient Setting

Elizabeth Stoppard¹, Rachel Botell¹, Alison Baxter², Lucy Skelton³, Cate Smith⁴, Mary Taylor⁵
¹Specialist Registrar Rehabilitation Medicine ²Senior Occupational Therapist ³Senior Speech and Language Therapist
⁴Senior Physiotherapist ⁵Consultant Clinical Neuropsychologist

Oxford Centre for Enablement, Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LD

Background

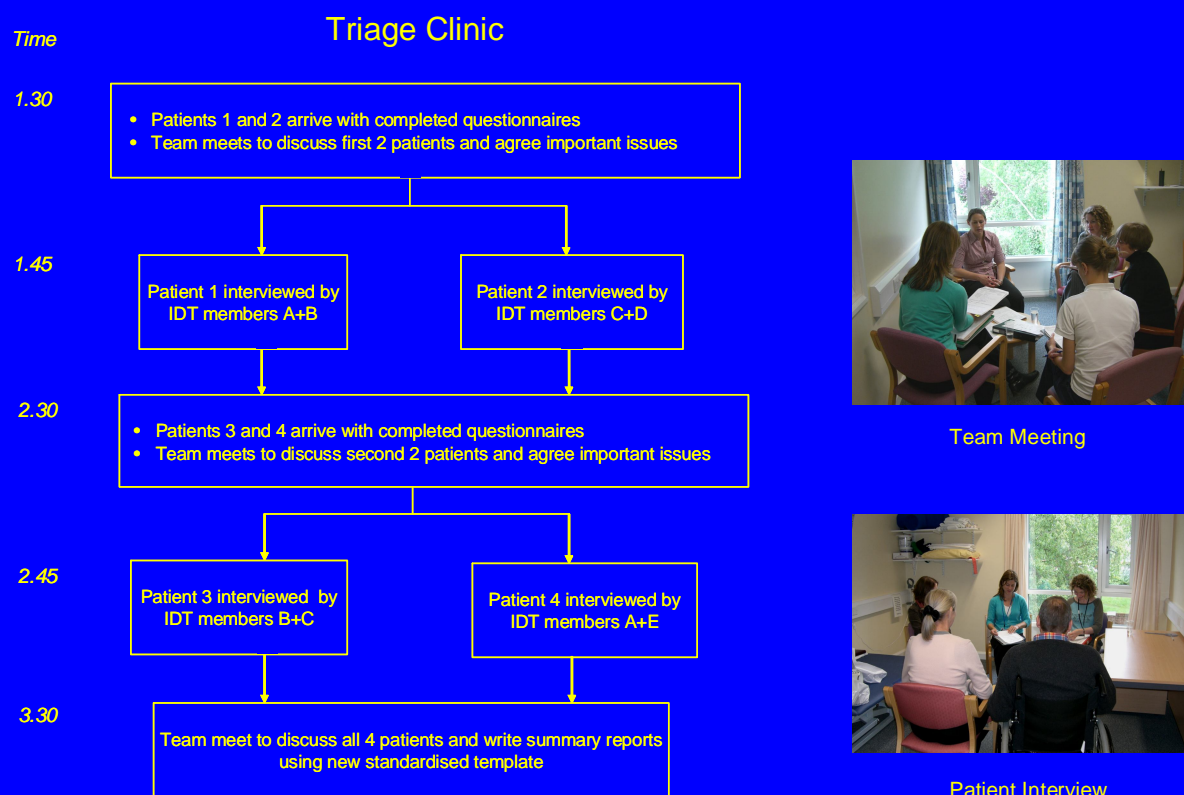
Since 1995 outpatient assessment of selected patients with complex disability has been undertaken in a multidisciplinary triage clinic. The purpose of the triage assessment is to assign appropriate rehabilitation treatment either at the Oxford Centre for Enablement (OCE) or in the home area to patients referred from the community who have usually been seen by a doctor at the OCE first. It is not in itself a full assessment, but the chance to identify need for appropriate intervention. Following a review of clinic structure we describe below our experience of facilitating interdisciplinary team working and improving the patient journey.

Original Triage Clinic

Previously professionals saw four patients sequentially in pre-allocated time slots. Patients were reviewed with a completed questionnaire on their daily activities. This process was time consuming, questions were duplicated, patients had a long, tiring afternoon and the team were unable to discuss the returned questionnaire beforehand. There was no facility for patients to be assessed by professionals other than those allocated.

Innovation

A working group undertook a review of this process and proposed changing to a more efficient and flexible interdisciplinary assessment structure.



Outcome

The assessment remains a short screening process with the same disciplines involved, but is now patient-centred and interdisciplinary.

Advantages identified:

- Elimination of repetitive assessment
- Time efficient
- Staff resources used appropriately to address newly identified problems
- Robust summary report
- Team members gain greater understanding of other disciplines' skills and knowledge base

Contact Details:
Oxford Centre for Enablement
Windmill Road, Headington
Oxford OX3 7LD
Tel: 01865 727600