



Increasing occupational engagement and participation on the Geriatric Evaluation and Management Ward (GEM) at St Vincent's Hospital, Fitzroy

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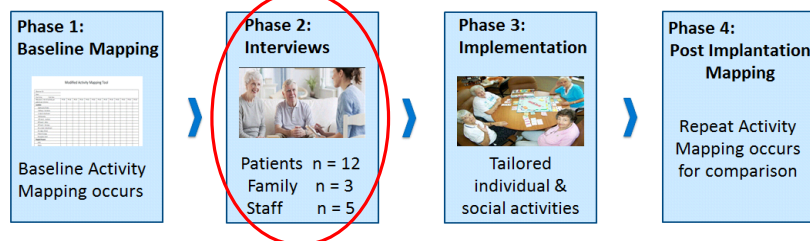


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Background

Patients on the GEM unit at St Vincent's Hospital, Fitzroy, during the hours of 8am to 4pm, spent 60% alone and 38% of their time asleep or not engaged in any activity.

Study Phases and Project Aims



Phase 2 Aim: To identify patients, family and staff member's health beliefs related to increasing activity engagement in the hospital settings and the specific barriers and enablers.

Method

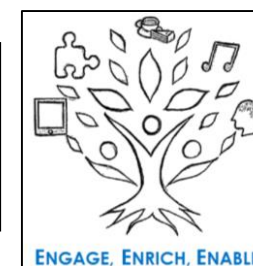
Semi-structured qualitative interviews were conducted with 12 patients, 3 family members and 5 staff.

Interviews were recorded and transcribed verbatim. Qualitative data were analysed using spiral content analysis.

Results

Barriers and incentives for increasing engagement and participation whilst in hospital have been identified.

Analysis of interviews revealed **five** key themes:



Significance of findings to Allied Health

Engaging consumers is an important stage of research aligning with the Allied Health Victorian Research Framework.

Environmental changes called 'environmental enrichment' strategies significantly associated with an average reduction in length of stay by 3.4 days.

We have the potential to make a similar impact to patients' activity during their hospital stay and their length of stay using these simple and relatively inexpensive strategies, that are adapted to individual patients' wants and needs.

Acknowledgements:

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