

An Evaluation of 'Out of Hours' Admissions at Severn Hospice

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Background & Aims

The majority of admissions at Severn Hospice are planned and occur during normal working hours.

NICE states 'Specialist palliative care inpatient facilities should be responsive to emergency need and able to admit people approaching the end of life at any time of day or night.'

This evaluation aims to:

- Evaluate 'out of hours' admissions at Severn Hospice.
- Provide a better understanding of the demography of 'out of hours' admissions.
- Begin to inform guidance development for 'out of hours' hospice admissions.

Method

Data was collected from all 'out of hours' admissions between 01/08/14 and 31/07/15 at Severn Hospice (Telford and Shrewsbury).

Data collected:

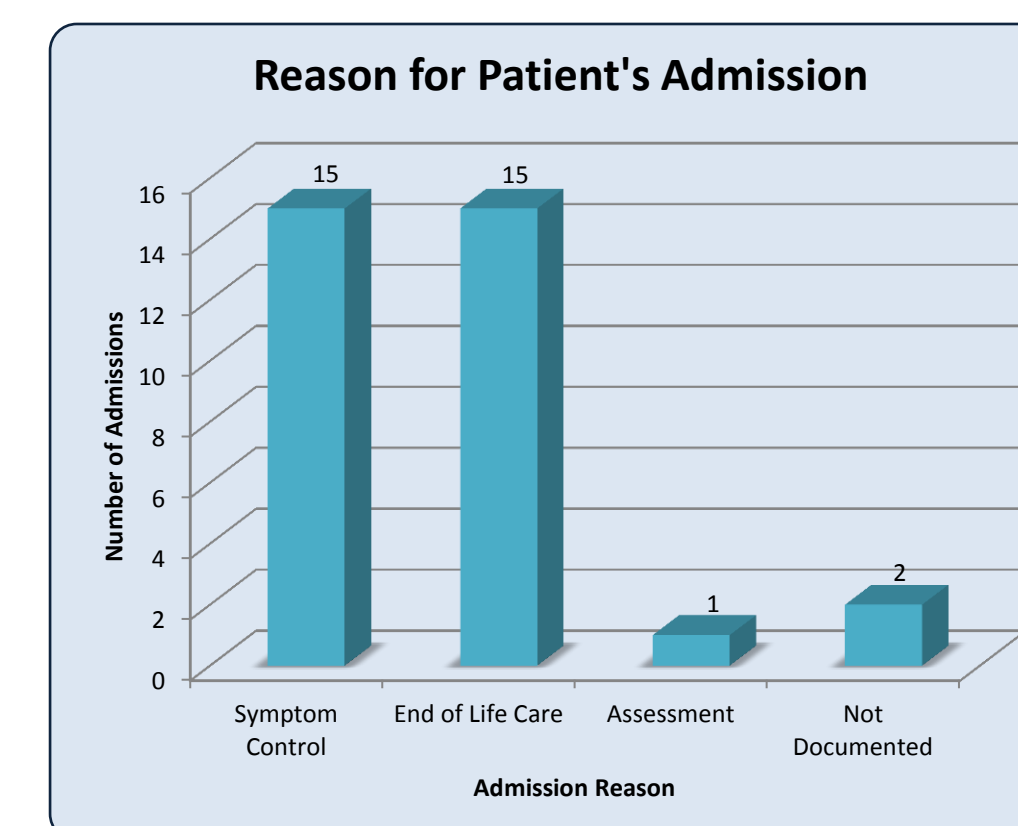
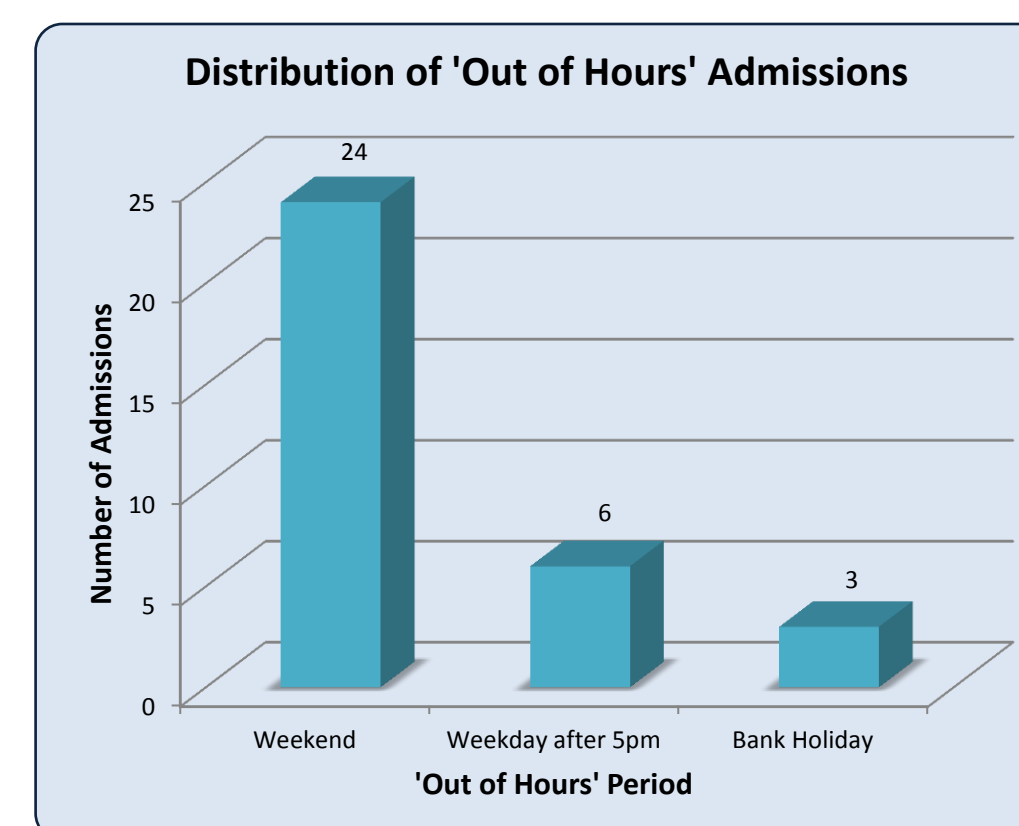
- Date and time of admission
- Referral reason
- Length of stay
- Outcome of stay
- Preferred place of death



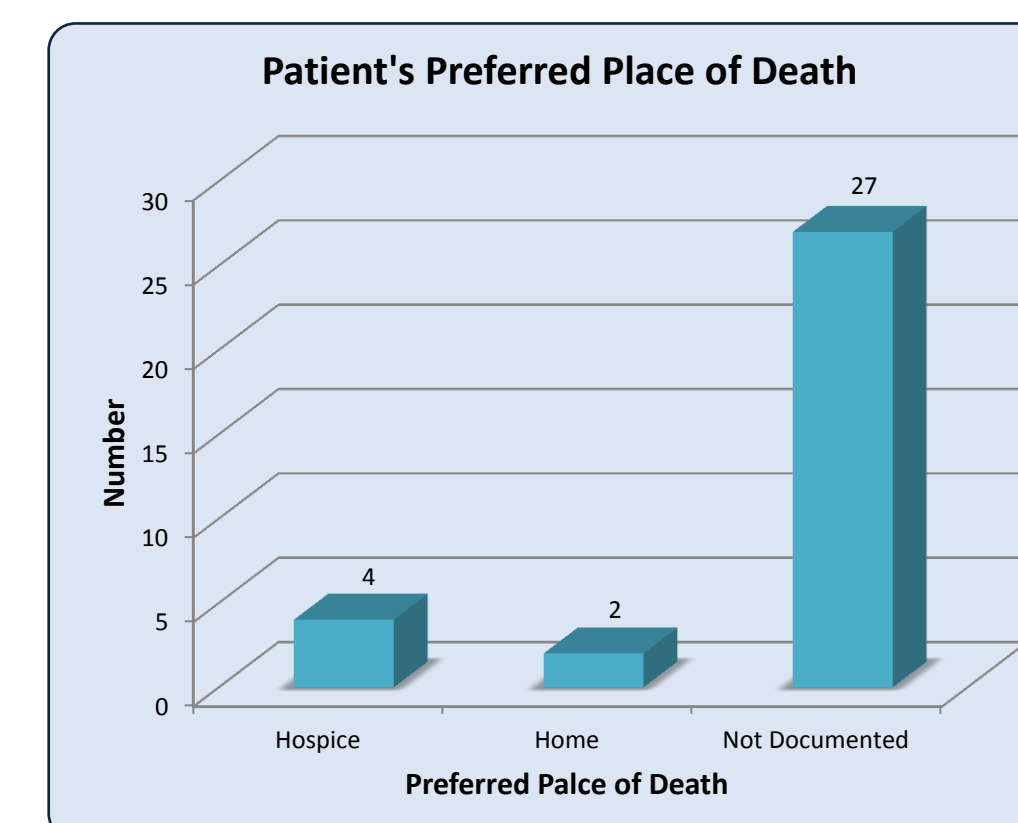
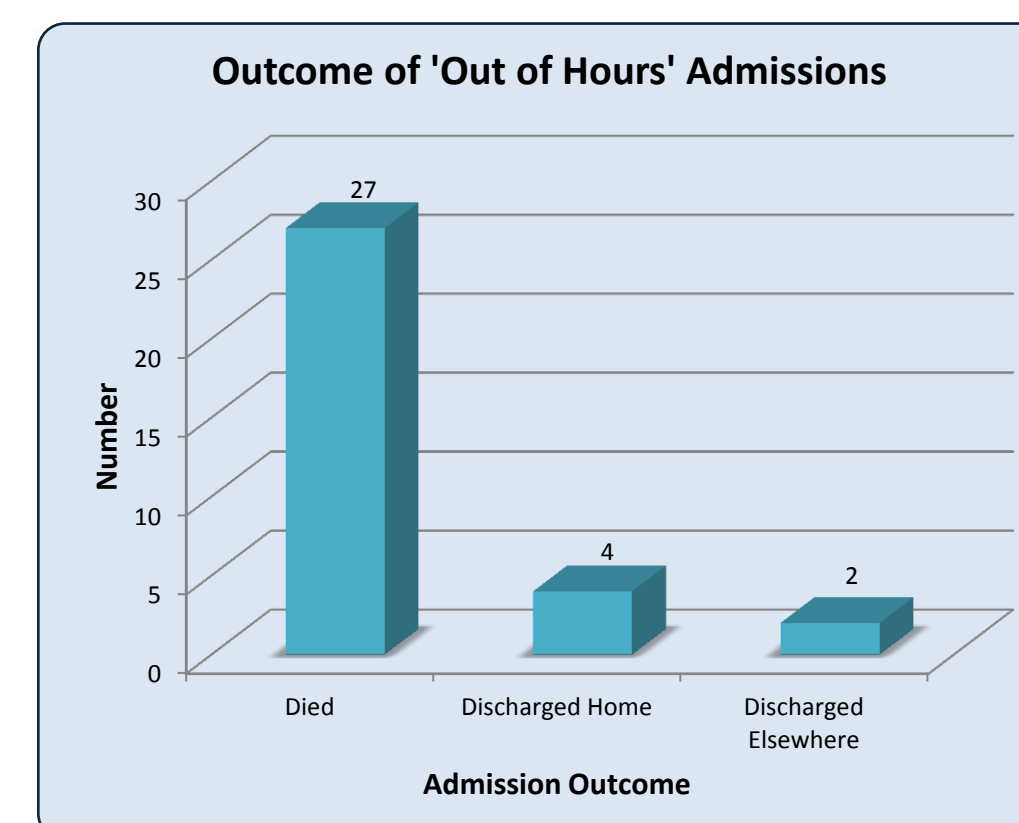
The data was collated and analysed using Microsoft Excel.

Results

33 'out of hours' admissions occurred across both sites over 12 months.



Length of Stay	Number of Days
Median	3
Mean	14
Minimum	1
Maximum	110



Conclusions

- Most 'out of hours' admissions occurred on a weekend.
- Same number of admissions for symptom control and end of life care. Demonstrates symptom control is as much an indication for 'out of hours' admission as end of life care.
- This could highlight a deficit in community services for symptom assessment and control 'out of hours'.
- The high number of deaths and short length of stay demonstrates emergency admission was appropriate in most cases.
- Documentation of preferred place of death appears poor, likely documented elsewhere in the notes.

Recommendations

- A section of the clerking documentation needs to be identified for recording preferred place of death.
- Increased provision of community services for 'out of hours' to ensure those whose preferred place of death is home are not admitted in an emergency.
- Evaluate 'out of hours' admissions over the previous 12 months to gain an understanding of how the service is changing over time.
- Further research into hospice 'out of hours' admissions to allow development of guidance for 'out of hours' admission indications.