

# A Co-located Subacute Amputee Service Reduces Acute Length of Stay at Footscray Hospital, Melbourne

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**Introduction:** Western Health (WH) has the highest public acute activity of amputation in the state of Victoria, with 376 separations and 402 procedures performed between 2007 and 2010. The absence of a designated, onsite amputee service generated significant delays and increased length of stay (LOS) in the acute setting, prohibiting access to early subacute rehabilitation. In March 2012 WH established the Subacute Amputee Service, founded on evidence-based practice and inter-professional care, providing comprehensive medical and allied health consultation and specialised rehabilitation. Co-located with acute care, this service aimed to facilitate a timely transition from acute to subacute care, reduce acute LOS and improve clinical outcomes for patients with amputations.

**Methods:** A retrospective review of hospital access data for patients who received major amputations at Footscray Hospital was completed for a period of 29 months pre and post service implementation, in order to investigate the primary endpoint of acute LOS. A secondary descriptive analysis of clinical data was completed to enable ongoing service development.

**Results:** Acute LOS decreased from 37.3 to 25.3 days following establishment of the co-located Subacute Amputee Service at Footscray Hospital. 33 patients were admitted following a major amputation between March 2012 and November 2014 which comprised of 66% (21) trans-tibial and 34% (11) trans-femoral amputees. The average change to the Functional Independence Measure (FIM) motor score following subacute rehabilitation at Footscray Hospital was 22.3 compared to the Victorian State average 16.8, with a higher FIM score denoting superior motor performance.

**Conclusion:** The Subacute Amputee Service has enabled a seamless transfer of amputee patients from acute to subacute care and has demonstrated a positive impact on service access with reductions in acute LOS, therefore offering patients earlier access to specialised amputee rehabilitation. The Western Health amputee rehabilitation service at has achieved improvements in FIM motor scores over and above Victorian state averages.

**Data From Mel 9/9/15 (phone call with Cat)**

**July 2013- Feb 2014**

**WH Mel's data**

*Motor*

Admission- 44.9

Discharge- 71.6

*Cognition*

Admission- 28.7

Discharge - 30.2

**State averages** (includes regional)

*Motor*

Admission- 50.8

Discharge- 64.2

*Cognition*

Admission- 31.1

Discharge - 31.4

**Peer averages:**

*Motor*

Admission- 53.6

Discharge- 65.0

*Cognition*

Admission- 30.6

Discharge- 30.7

\*State government of Victoria dept health and human services