

SOP Title	Discharging elderly and vulnerable adults		
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Approved by			
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SOP Objectives	To make sure all patients in the Emergency Department are discharged safely.
Scope	
Performance Measures	Reduction in unsafe discharge incidents
Related Documents	

**Work Instruction – To assess all patients regarding suitable to go home or not.**

No.	Action	Responsibility
1	<p>Is the patient:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Able to manage at home?</li><li>• Are they going home to an empty house and can they get themselves into bed, provide food for themselves, turn the heating on?</li><li>• Do they have the capacity to make the decision to go home?</li><li>• Do they have a key or key safe number to allow access?</li></ul> <p>If the answer is yes and you are happy that it is a safe discharge, then the patient can go home.</p>	Named Nurse
2	Do not discharge any elderly or vulnerable patients between midnight and 7am if there is no NOK assistance, home care needs restarting or there is no one at home to meet them.	Named Nurse
3	<b>ALWAYS</b> inform relatives or NOK of discharge.	Named Nurse
4	Please document all actions on EPR and complete discharge checklist.	Named Nurse
5	Please also consider if transport has been booked in hours and it's after midnight is this patient still fit to be discharged? Should alternative arrangements be made until the morning?	Named Nurse