

Frailty triage in the Wake of Covid – 19 - A hope on the horizon.

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ABSTRACT

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic the NHS has had to transform the way it has been working with older people living with frailty. This study investigates the effect of telephone triage on persons awaiting comprehensive geriatric assessment (CGA) in the secondary care setting. Referred patient information was collated from primary and secondary clinical records on a triage template. Two trainee advanced clinical practitioners supported by the Consultant Geriatrician, conducted telephone triage with the patients and their carers. The specialty team then discussed these patients with the primary care teams to support appropriate care planning. This study showed that frailty specialists can remotely support provision of appropriate, system wide, frailty- related interventions in partnership with primary care, even in the absence of a face to face CGA. Further research should explore ways of delivering CGA remotely in partnership with primary care.

Key words: Frailty, CGA, interventions, primary and secondary care.