

VIRTUAL VIGILANCE

PALLIATIVE VIRTUAL WARD TO AVOID UNNEEDED ADMISSIONS AND ENSURE TIMELY ESCALATION

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BACKGROUND

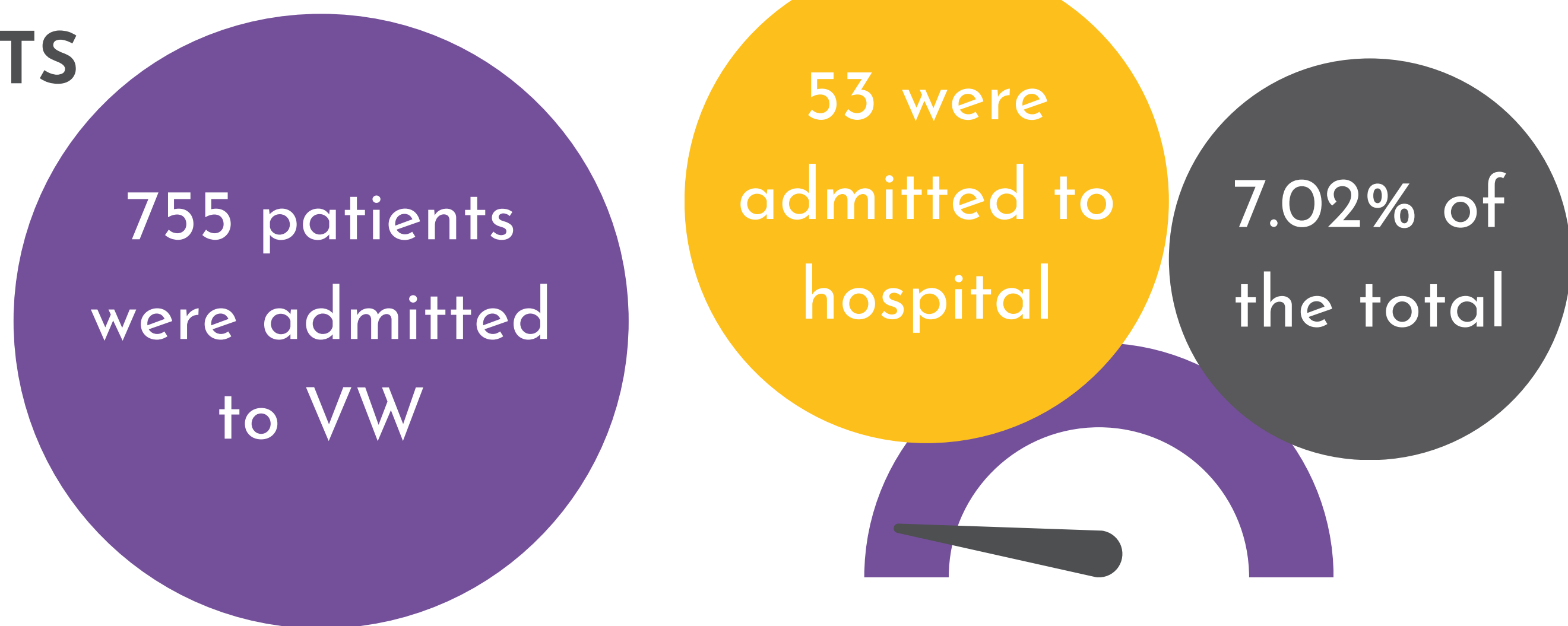
- Community palliative care complexities are increasing, with more patients choosing home as their final place of care
- Many patients desire to remain home, while others opt for hospital escalation when needed, recording this in their Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment (ReSPECT)
- Virtual Ward (VW) must balance minimising unwanted admissions and enabling necessary hospital escalations

WHAT IS VIRTUAL WARD?

Virtual Ward allows patients to access specialist care at home. Patients receive daily virtual assessments and bi-weekly consultant reviews as part of an intensive multidisciplinary care approach.



RESULTS



Main reasons for escalation included:



AIMS

- To prevent avoidable hospital admissions while facilitating appropriate escalation
- To evaluate the clinical appropriateness of hospital admissions for VW patients

METHOD

- Retrospective case note review
- Included patients admitted to hospital in a one year period (April 2023 - March 2024)
- Data collected: reason for admission, outcome of admission, primary diagnosis, ReSPECT status and demographic details
- Data analysed by two independent doctors.



CONCLUSION

Hospital admissions from VW aligned well with clinical needs and ReSPECT plans, highlighting the importance of robust escalation plans. Virtual Wards not only help prevent unnecessary admissions but also facilitate early detection of critical symptoms needing escalation.



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