

Why think Same Day Emergency Care?



Guide for NHS 111 and CAS clinicians

This guide is designed to provide NHS 111 and Clinical Assessment Service (CAS) clinicians with the practical advice and information they need to refer into SDEC services.



What is Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC)?

SDEC allows specialists, where possible, to care for patients within the same day of arrival as an alternative to hospital admission, removing delays for patients requiring further investigation and/or treatment.

Which patients are suitable for SDEC?

An 'SDEC by default' approach should be considered for referrals. SDEC services treat many common conditions including (not an exhaustive list):

- Falls (without injury)
- Cellulitis
- Community acquired pneumonia
- Pulmonary embolism
- Deep vein thrombosis
- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath (COPD, heart failure, asthma)
- Early pregnancy bleeding
- Palpitations
- Atrial fibrillation
- Acute headaches

Referrals should only be made when the patient's condition requires treatment above and beyond primary care.



What are the benefits of directly referring into SDEC?

- **Clinical touchpoints are appropriately reduced** through the patient's journey and experience.
- **Helps to safely reduce avoidable conveyance to emergency departments (EDs)** which means patients are directed to the right place, first time.
- **Helps reduce ambulance handover times** as it frees up capacity in the ED.
- **Improves patient flow** as patients avoid delays in ED waiting rooms and further triage.
- **Patients have a better experience** – they spend hours, rather than days, in hospital.

What can I do?

- You should always consider SDEC when secondary care is required.
- **Always think SDEC first** when considering sending a patient to an ED or when validating a category 3/4 ambulance.
- You can refer via a telephone call to your local SDEC service. **Direct dial numbers will be profiled on DoS under SDEC service types.** You can use this to hold a clinical conversation around whether your patient is suitable for SDEC.

Where can I find out more?

- Further guidance for referring into SDEC is available [here](#).
- The **SDEC Collaboration Platform** is a dedicated space for members to access information and tools to support whole system transformation.

You can register to join the workspace here:

