

# Why think Same Day Emergency Care?



## Guide for ambulance clinicians

This guide is designed to provide ambulance 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?

- Always **think SDEC first** when considering sending a patient to an ED.
- Make sure you have **access to an appropriate digital referral tool (e.g. MiDoS, Service Finder or Pathfinder)** to find the most up to date information on local SDEC services.
- **The referral tool you have access to will provide you with a direct dial number for your local SDEC service.** You can use this for advice regarding individual patients and their suitability for SDEC.
- **A discussion with the clinician or senior decision maker** within the SDEC unit will deem if a referral is appropriate.

### Where can I find out more?

- **National guidance is available** to support ambulance providers and systems in designing and implementing direct referrals into SDEC. The guidance also includes a **Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendations (SBAR) template** to support decision making pre-conveyance.
- The **SDEC Collaboration Platform** is a dedicated space for members to access guidance and tools to support whole system transformation.

You can register to join the workspace here:

