

Why think Same Day Emergency Care?



A guide for primary and community care clinicians

This guide is designed to provide clinicians in primary and community care settings with the practical advice and information they need to directly refer into Same Day Emergency Care (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.

You can directly refer to SDEC following either a telephone or face-to-face interaction with a patient.

Does my patient need SDEC?

SDEC services can cover a number of specialities including medical, surgical, acute frailty, paediatrics, obstetrics, and gynaecology. Patients who are stable with no immediate red flags may benefit from SDEC if they require:

- Further observation
- Further diagnostics
- Care and hospital referral within the next 24-48 hours

SDEC should always be considered by default when referring a patient to hospital



What are the benefits of directly referring into SDEC?

- Clinical touch-points are appropriately reduced through the patient's journey and experience
- Clinician to clinician discussions help ensure patients are directed to the right place, first time
- **Patient flow is improved**
- Patients avoid emergency department (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 emergency department (ED)
- Use your **directory tool (e.g. Service Finder)** to access the most up to date information on local SDEC services
- For advice regarding individual patients and their suitability for SDEC, **use the direct dial number profiled for local services on the directory tool. A telephony 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?

- 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:

