

Acute Care of the Elderly

B1 | Robina Hospital

Acute Care of the Elderly (ACE) unit provides a comprehensive assessment and care for people older than 65 years of age. It is a 28 bed unit located in Robina Hospital.

The model aims to limit unnecessary investigations and circumventing multiple internal referrals to inpatient medical teams by providing early identification of the acute aged and frail patient that requires ongoing or inpatient geriatric assessment. Early discharge is facilitated for suitable patients and rapid referral to appropriate specialists occurs where inpatient subspecialty internal medical care is additionally required.

Learning Opportunities

- Acute geriatric assessments
- Management of acutely unwell aged and frail patients with complex medical needs
- Multidisciplinary collaboration
- Links with external providers to promote best outcomes and alternative pathways for patients
- Intravenous infusion management ie. electrolyte replacement, iron infusion, blood product administration
- Pain assessment and management including CADD
- Delirium prevention and management using 4AT and PINCH ME
- Wound care for pressure injuries, chronic ulcers
- Understanding unmet needs and responsive behaviours
- Personalised behaviour support plans for patients with Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD)
- Case study presentations/nursing rounds
- In-service education

Professional Opportunities

- Ongoing professional development and learning
- Supporting succession planning pathways
- Preceptorship
- Participation in NSQHS portfolio within the unit
- Participation in Magnet® program
- Supporting participation in the Nursing and Midwifery Professional Recognition Program (NMPRP)
- Research opportunities in partnership with Griffith University

Educational Resources

- Clinical nurse educator
- Clinical facilitator and preceptor in the environment
- Orientation program specific to the unit
- Planned education focus aligned with service
- Allied health input into the ongoing education of staff
- Shared education resources and information
- Supported participation in workshops and seminars
- Staff development map
- Training framework for care of the older persons
- Adhere learning on delirium
- Wicking Institute
- Dementia Training Australia

