Exceptional Patients

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Introduction and Method
Patients with increasing chronic comorbidities require many health issues to be resolved in a much more cost effective manner when compared with patients who do not have comorbidities.
This presentation discusses the identification, classification and impact of increasing chronic conditions from linked, coded jurisdictional administrative health data. It describes a process of grouping approximately 3,000 specific chronic conditions into 53 classes and applying these to all Tasmanian clinically coded public hospital episodes over a ten year period (2008-2017).

The impact of Multimorbidity has been reported previously, and this presentation extends the findings observed in inpatient settings to Emergency Department and Ambulatory care. We also present a project using this information to inform identification of clients with exceptional needs for individual study.

Results
From these linked data, it is suggested that the more chronic conditions an individual patient has, the greater the frequency and duration of hospital care, the greater the cost of care and the greater the risk of poorer health outcomes for such individuals.

As part of this work a number high-need patients have been selected and followed with the aim of coordinating care from multiple parts of the Tasmanian health continuum to improve both the quality of care provided and the outcomes experienced by patients with chronic conditions. This work is intended to enable care innovations to be piloted for patients who have the highest and most complex needs.

Conclusion

These data show that the presence of a very high burden of disease impacts on care delivered in ambulatory settings and other services as well as in the admitted setting. The data also informs appropriate responses. Moreover, the use of linked data may provide additional options for healthcare management providers.