



Acute care toolkit 4

Delivering a 12-hour, 7-day consultant presence on the acute medical unit October 2012

Appendix 1: Example calculation of numbers of patient contacts per day

- > A hospital has a 45-bed AMU which admits an average of 40 patients in 24 hours.
- > Of these, 25 arrive on the AMU between the hours of 8am and 8pm, and 15 between 8pm and 8am.
- > An AMU consultant starts at 8am and reviews all the patients who have been admitted to the ward overnight with the overnight on-call medical team **(15 patient contacts)**.
- > Of the remaining 30 patients on the AMU, care for 10 patients has already been taken over by a specialty team, leaving a further 20 patients requiring AMU consultant review **(20 patient contacts)**.
- > During the period between 8am and 8pm, a further 25 new patients arrive on the AMU, requiring review by the AMU consultant **(25 patient contacts)**.
- > 25 patients move off the AMU during the course of the day, many of whom will be patients whose care was taken over by a specialty team. The remaining 20 patients will require a second AMU consultant review **(20 patient contacts)**.

Total: 80 patient contacts between 8am and 8pm, of which 20 may be repeat reviews.

This will require a minimum of two AMU consultants to be present during this period.