

Assessing the impact of decant from South Ayrshire to East Ayrshire on the demographics of patients admitted to the in-patient unit

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Abbreviated abstract: The Ayrshire Hospice provides specialist palliative care to the population of Ayrshire and Arran. In February 2022 the in-patient unit decanted from Ayr to East Ayrshire Community Hospital to allow for refurbishment of the existing site in Ayr.

The aim of this work was to measure any impact of this geographical change on the patient demographic, i.e. which area of Ayrshire (North, South or East) patients were referred from (for in-patient care only).



Previous work, challenge, and approach

A snapshot of pre-decant baseline of patient home location from October 2021 to Feb 2022 was established, and data continued to be measured from March to July 2022. Initial findings are as follows:

Area of Ayrshire	Pre decant referral rate	Post decant referral rate
East	19%	29%
North	40%	32%
South	40%	39%



Techniques and Methods

This early data supports the anecdotal evidence that the change in location has encouraged patients from East Ayrshire who would not previously have considered admission whilst the hospice was located in South Ayrshire to be admitted for in patient care.



Results and Conclusions

We will continue to monitor in patient referrals to establish whether this pattern continues during decant to East Ayrshire, and will also review any resulting change to patient location demographics upon return to our South Ayrshire location in 2024.

