

Acute Care for the Elderly (ACE) Unit

Information for health care providers

How does the ACE Unit differ from other medical units?

Unity Hospital's ACE Unit offers patients and family members:

- an environment adapted for needs of elderly patients
- protocols and procedures focused on geriatric issues
- broader functional information collected to address common health concerns of the elderly
- focus on function and mobility with physical therapy and occupational therapy involvement and early ambulation
- discharge planning that begins after a patient is admitted.

Admission process and criteria

The ACE Unit has been designed to address challenges that older patients often face during a stressful hospitalization. The goals of the ACE Unit model include: maintaining or improving functional status, reducing length of stay, decrease discharge to transitional care unit or nursing home, decreasing adverse events (falls, delirium), increasing education and connection to community resources and reducing readmissions.

- Admission through Emergency Room or direct admission process from referring physician
- Admission criteria
 - 70 years or older
 - acute medical diagnosis (non-elective)
 - community resident
 - ability to actively participate in care plan.
- Exclusion criteria
 - residents of long-term care facilities or terminally ill/hospice patients
 - need for advanced or critical care (drips, Intensive Care Unit, etc.
 - need for specialized care such as surgery, orthopedic, psychiatric or patients with primarily cardiac diagnosis (cardiac telemetry monitoring is available).

ACE Unit medical model

Patients on the ACE Unit are cared for by an interdisciplinary team of experts with specialized training, experience and interest in caring for older adults. Team members include: social workers, case managers, physical therapists, occupational therapists, dietitians, pharmacists, registered nurses, nursing assistants, geriatricians, hospitalist physicians and a geriatric clinical nurse specialist.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REFER A PATIENT

For more information
on Unity Hospital's
ACE Unit, visit

allinahealth.org/unityace.

To refer a patient,
call Unity Hospital at
763-236-5000.