

## Lay Summary:

### Current ways in which general practitioner services are working in or alongside emergency departments in England

Emergency departments (EDs) in the UK have faced more demand than ever with waiting times at record levels.

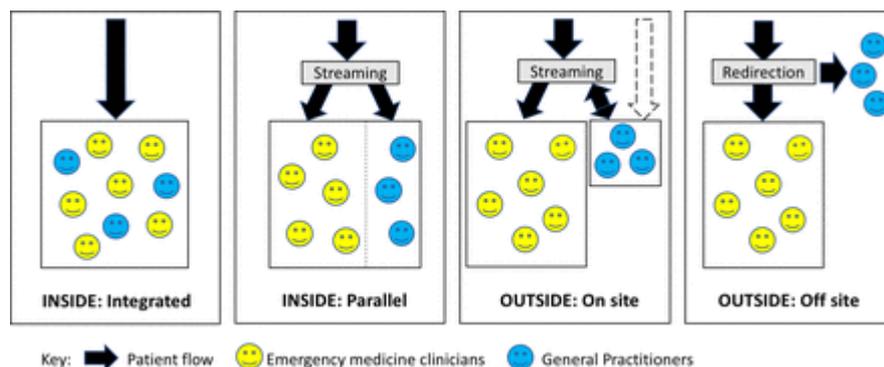
It has been estimated that between 15% and 40% of patients attending the ED could be treated by general practitioners (GPs).

In 2017 the NHS in England recommended that Emergency Departments (EDs) in hospitals work closely with GPs in order to cope with increased demand. This new development was supported by government funding.

No models were suggested as to how the GPs should work either in or alongside EDs so a variety of solutions to the problem developed, but little was known about these, and about which models worked best.

We collected information from 163 large EDs (92% of all those in England and Wales) to find out which models of GPs working with EDs existed and how well they were working. The information was collected from on-line surveys, interviews, case studies and publicly available information sources. Information was collected at two time points: September 2017 and December 2019.

The different models of how GPs worked with EDs were then put into categories shown in the diagram below:



(Cooper A, Edwards M, Brandling J, et al Taxonomy of the form and function of primary care services in or alongside emergency departments: concepts paper *Emergency Medicine Journal* 2019;36:625-630.)

In 2017 most EDs were already working with GPs. Even more started working with GPs during the period studied and there was a rise in the number of parallel models and fall in the number of integrated models which may be explained by the additional funding provided at this time. This funding allowed more EDs to make changes to buildings in order to set up parallel services.

More research still needs to be done however to find out which of the various models are the most effective.