What works, for whom, how and in what circumstances?

- We used realist methodology to understand how and why service models worked in different settings.
- Data sources included: literature review, national survey and staff interviews and observations at a purposive sample of 13 hospital sites.
The role of GPs in the service models was influenced by **wider system** determinants e.g. patient demand; **department level factors** e.g. access to investigations, expectation; and **individual clinician level** e.g. experience and interest.

Some GPs maintained a traditional **GP approach** while others adopted an **emergency medicine approach**.

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Conceptual spectrum of integration
Cooper et al. *EMJ* 2019
doi:10.1136/emermed-2018-208305
Influences perceived to facilitate safe patient care when GPs work in EDs

Context
- Wider context: appropriate communication with local primary care for continuity of care

Mechanisms
- Experienced streaming nurse
- Feedback on streaming decisions
- Patient walks into ED
- Streaming guidance based on local service provision
- Communication with primary care about skillset/capacity
- Use of early warning scores

Outcome 1, Context 2
- Appropriate decision to stream patient to GP
- Nurse uses clinical judgement
- Nurse understanding of which patients are appropriate for the GP service
- Nurse familiar with early warning scores
- GP selects own patients

Mechanism
- Clear guidance and expectation of the role of the GP in the department
- GP/ED clinical leadership and governance supporting a safe GP approach
- Experience and skillset of the GP
- Availability of acute investigations
- Support from senior ED staff to see patients that require ED level care

Outcome
- Understanding of the role of the GP in the department
- Confidence to send patient back to ED if not appropriate for primary care
- Confidence in clinical skills
- Awareness that these are higher risk patients
- Appropriate decision to use traditional GP approach
- Appropriate decision to adopt ED clinician approach
- Appropriate patients seen by GP
- Safe patient care

Wider context: appropriate communication with local primary care for continuity of care

Understanding of the role of the GP in the department

Confidence in clinical skills

Awareness that these are higher risk patients

Appropriate decision to use traditional GP approach

Appropriate decision to adopt ED clinician approach

Appropriate patients seen by GP

Safe patient care