



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Midlands Regional Hospital Tullamore

Tissue Viability Service in the Emergency Department:

Reducing Patient Waiting Time and
Preventing Risk to the Health and Safety
of Patients



Christianah Sanni, Clinical Nurse
Specialist, Tissue Viability



TISSUE VIABILITY refers to the specialised field focused on wound care, including assessment, prevention, and treatment of wounds, pressure ulcers, and skin breakdown.

- Targeted Interventions & Specialized Dressing
- Infection Prevention
- Patient Referral & Peer Review
- Multi-disciplinary Collaboration
- Vascular Team Assessment





Reason for the Tissue Viability Service in the ED

PRIMARY PURPOSE: Deliver advanced wound care for complex cases, including comprehensive clinical evaluation

Enhanced Patient Education

↓ Risk of Long-Term Disability

Prevent Pressure Ulcers

↓ Patient Waiting Time

↓ Risk of Infection

Improved Pain Management

Early Detection of Potential Complications

↓ Hospital Admission & Readmission



Current Challenges in ED Wound Care

Shortage of Specialists:

Limited availability of wound care experts and GPs.

Higher Infection Risks:

Delays in wound care elevate the risk of infection

High Patient Volume:

Growing population adds pressure on ED resources

Impact of COVID-19:

Strained healthcare system and worsened general health.

Complex Chronic Wounds:

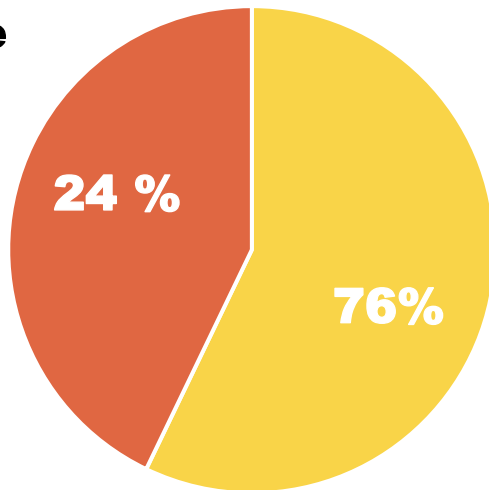
Rising cases need specialised care.



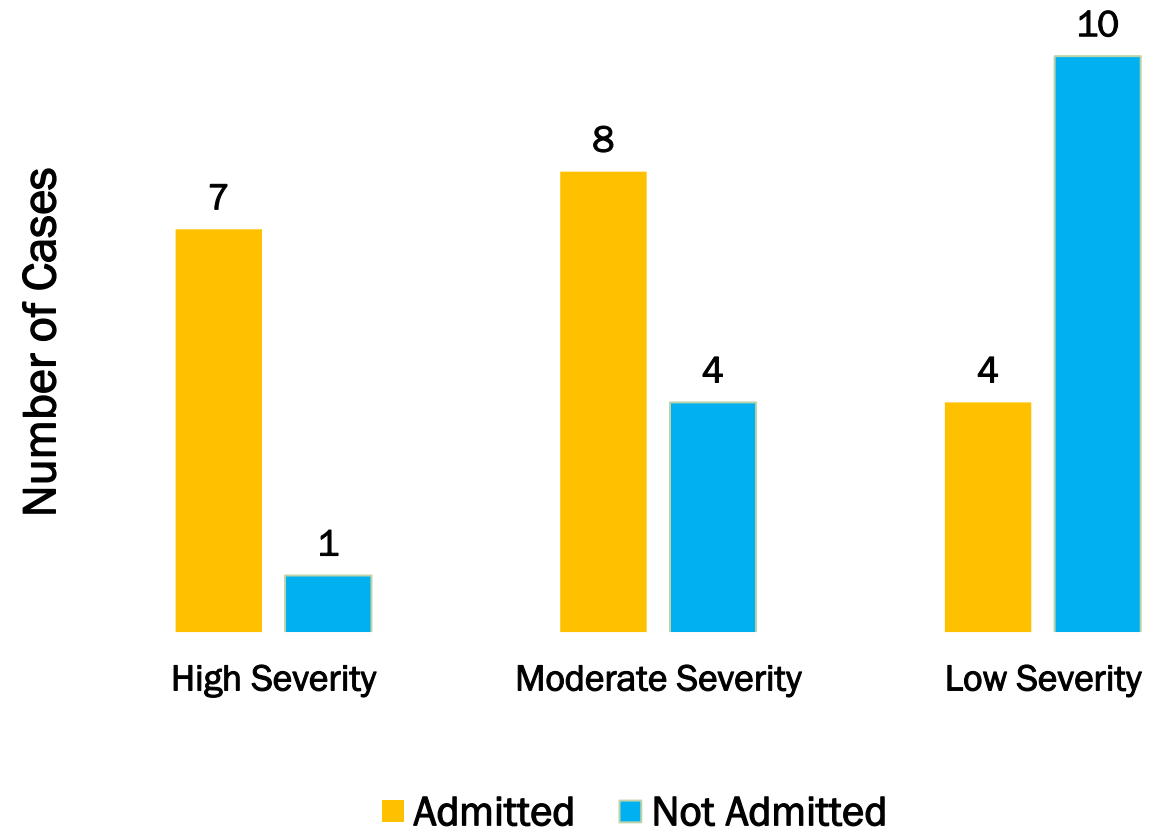
“Patients wait up to 90 hours for ED beds, with record attendances, ageing population, and GP shortages straining Ireland's healthcare system”- HIQA, 2022

Gender Distribution of Patients

- Male
- Female

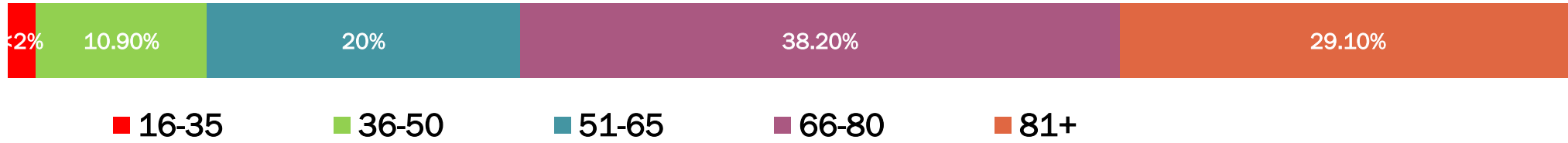


Admission Rates by Severity Level

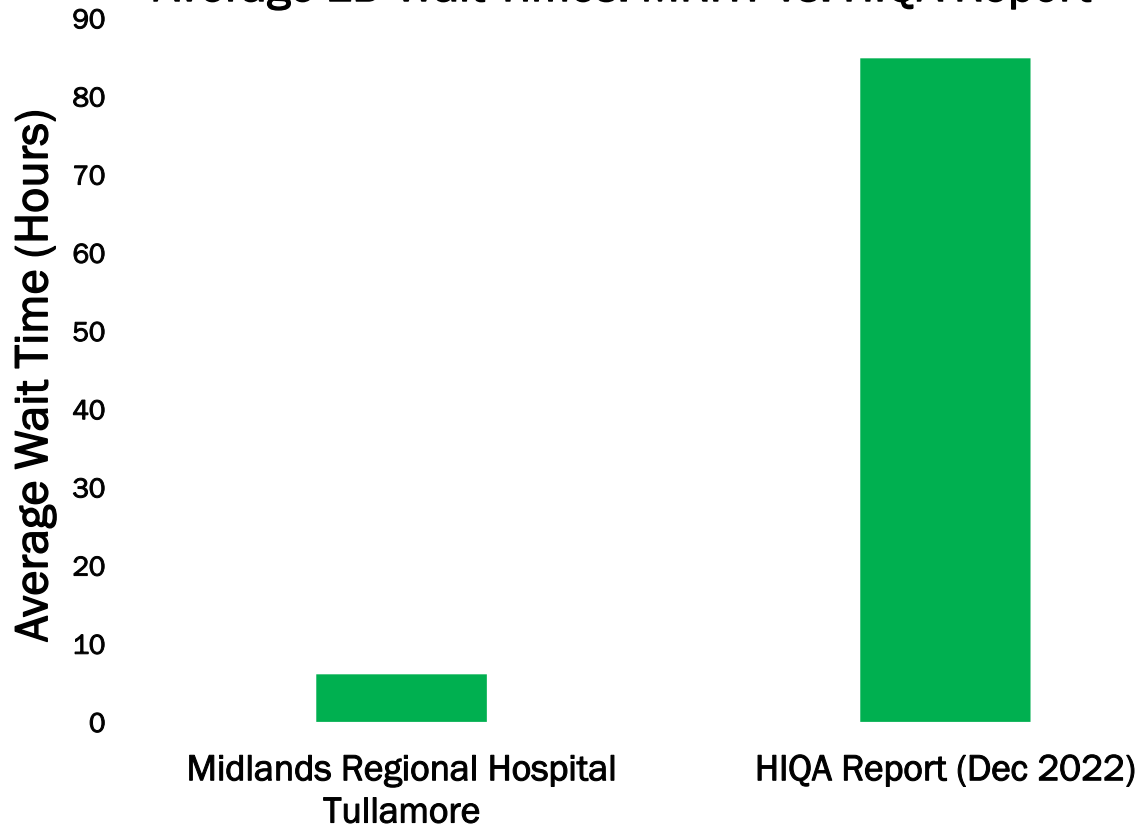




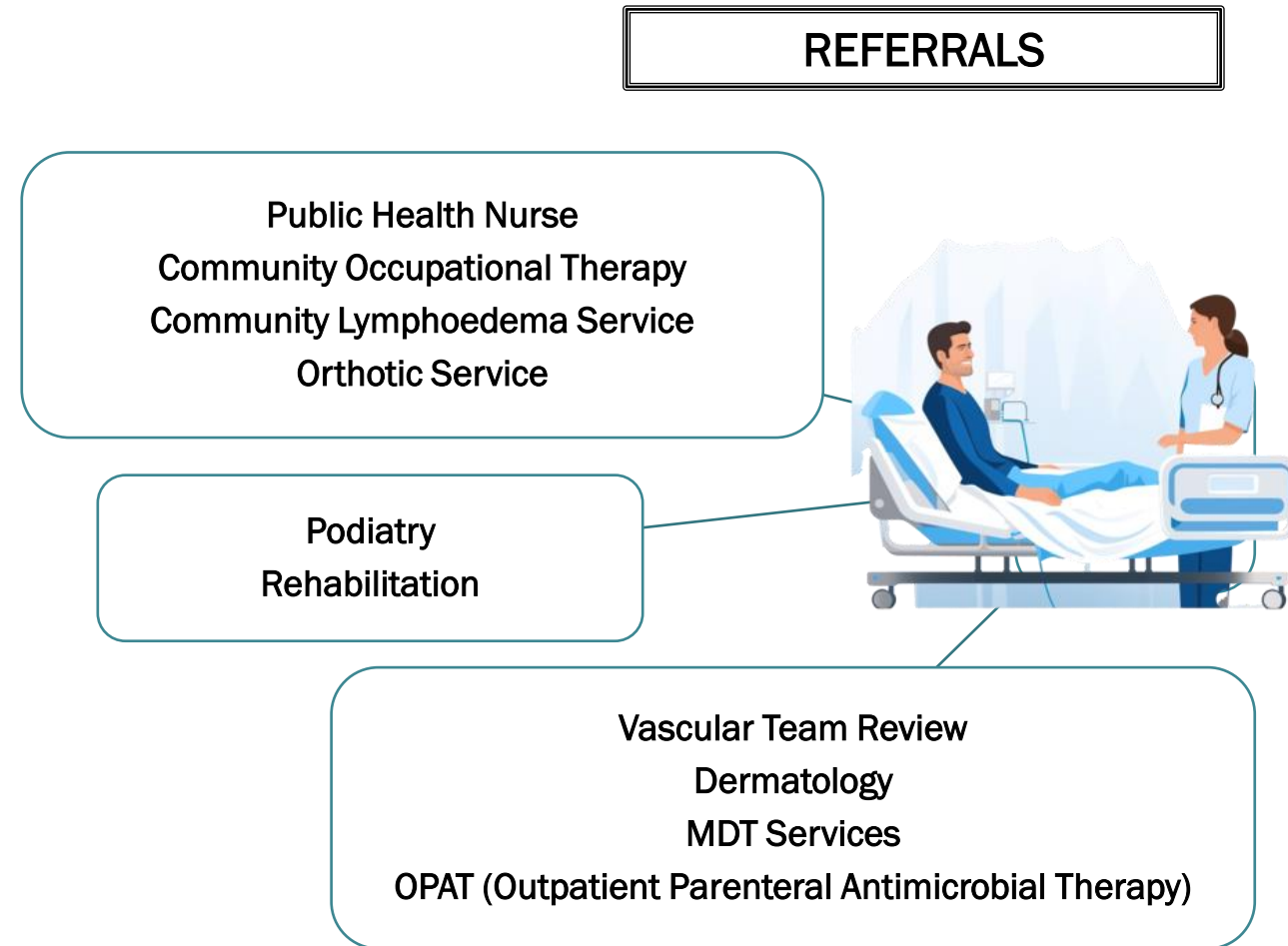
Patient Age Distribution



Average ED Wait Times: MRHT vs. HIQA Report



****7 patients waiting >10 hrs in MRHT**





Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Care Pathway

STANDARDISED PROTOCOLS:

- **Triage & Initial Assessment:** Prioritize complex wound cases.
- **Risk Assessment Tools:** e.g. Waterlow Scale.
- **Phased Care Pathway:**
 - Initial Evaluation & Diagnosis
 - Treatment Planning
 - Intervention & Follow-Up

REFERRAL PROCESS: Pathways for advanced intervention and multidisciplinary care services.

STAFF TRAINING AND INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Thank You

Christianah Sanni

christianah.sanni@hse.ie

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/christina-sanni/>



References

Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), 2022. *HIQA's emergency department inspections show a health system under unprecedented strain*. [online] Available at: <https://www.hiqa.ie/hiqa-news-updates/hiqas-emergency-department-inspections-show-health-system-under-unprecedented>

Health Innovation Network, 2024. *National Wound Care Strategy Programme*. [online] Available at: <https://thehealthinnovationnetwork.co.uk/programmes/wound-care/national-woundcare-strategy-programme/>

Health Service Executive (HSE), 2018. *HSE National Wound Management Guidelines 2018*. [online] Available at: <https://healthservice.hse.ie/about-us/onmsd/quality-nursing-and-midwifery-care/hse-national-wound-guidelines-2018.html>

Wounds International, 2024. *Understanding compression therapy: EWMA position document*. [online] Available at: <https://woundsinternational.com/best-practice-statements/understanding-compression-therapy-ewma-position-document-wint/>