

**A series  
of research  
projects about  
health and  
social care for  
older people.**



## **The attitudes of elderly patients and their relatives to the experience of boarding in an acute medical unit**

What are the attitudes of elderly patients, and their relatives, towards being boarded within the hospital?

Amy Begg, Staff Nurse, NHS Lothian

[Amy.Begg@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Amy.Begg@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)

## Overview

Boarding patients can be necessary to ensure patient flow within the hospital and to prevent long waits in the emergency department and in primary assessment. This research looks at gaining a greater understanding of the elderly patients' attitudes of boarding within the hospital setting and improving the elderly patient's hospital experience in relation to boarding.

The National health Service definition of a boarder "is a patient who occupies a borrowed bed". That is a patient that is cared for in another ward or area of the hospital, other than the ward of the consultant or consultant team that are caring for them.

Within the acute medical unit of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh we admit a wide range of patients with varying medical problems directly from Accident and Emergency (A&E) or from their General Practitioners via the Primary Assessment Area. Due to the high intake of patients into our ward, we board patients into other wards.

This research project aims to examine the attitudes of elderly patients and their relatives towards being boarded in another ward and to identify ways that we could improve on this service.

