

# Surgical Ambulatory Emergency Care Programme

Great strides have been made in same day emergency care across the NHS over the last few years and the Ambulatory Emergency Care Network has played an important part in supporting organisations to adopt effective processes to maximise this approach.



The AEC network expanded to include a Surgical Ambulatory Emergency Care (SAEC) network in 2017 and more than 40 sites have participated so far. Clinical teams worked together to agree principles for this approach and many resources and products have been developed to help other sites adopt this way of working. Outcomes and benefits include an improved patient experience, reduced admissions and shorter length of stay. Many sites also report a reduction in cancelled operations as a consequence of improved emergency flow

The improvement network follows the tried and tested AEC Network model, with each cohort running for a period of 12 months. The programme is designed as a collaborative and teams from health communities sign up to work through improvement plans together. The programme is clinically led and delivered by senior NHS leaders who support sites through their improvement journeys. As well as improving surgical pathway's and systems the programme includes training and support to undertake Measurement for improvement and co-design with patients using experience based design.

Each programme runs for 12 months and participating trusts are supported in a number of ways. The support includes:

- Core events are delivered each month
- Topic specific virtual workshops and master classes
- Webinars
- Virtual Site visits
- 1-1 help as needed
- Expertise on measurement
- Measuring patient experience and using experience based design to improve services

- Sustainability assessment
- Members web resource repository for all outputs from both Medical and Surgical AEC programmes and participating sites

For an overview of the programme see figure 1 below.

We are pleased to announce that Cohort Seven of SAEC is planned to commence in September 2021. If you would like any more information about joining the next cohort for Surgical AEC, please email [aec@nhselect.org.uk](mailto:aec@nhselect.org.uk), or if you have further queries about the programme please give our Programme Director, Deborah Thompson, a call on **07825 351966**.



Overview of programme (figure 1)

