The ECOP Decision Support Tool

ECOP, which stands for Emergency Care for Older People, was a research project led by [Professor Simon Conroy](#) from the MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing at University College London. The project, funded by the [National Institute for Health & Care Research](#), involved six UK universities and ran from 2018-22. Its overall aim was to improve outcomes for older people attending hospital Emergency Departments.

The project included the development of a user-friendly computer simulation tool that allows NHS service planners to explore the system-wide impact on patient outcomes of five ED-based interventions for people aged 75 and over. These interventions are all backed up by reliable evidence from studies reported in the literature.

The tool considers not only the ED and the hospital, but also captures the knock-on effects, i.e. what happens to patients in the community following an ED attendance or emergency admission, and provides a risk-free way to understand how these various interventions might affect patients in your own locality. The tool comes with built-in data, but you can easily edit this (in Excel) if you wish.

The tool is free of charge and easy to use; you don't need to be a computer expert and you don't need any special software. It can be accessed directly via [this link](#), and there is plenty of documentation (on Future NHS Platform) to help:

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (read this first)
- [Before You Start](#) (read this next…)
- [Quick Start User Guide](#) (… and then work through this, to get familiar with the tool)
- [ECOP Tool User Manual](#) (comprehensive and detailed)
- [xlsx](#) (an Excel file containing the data used by the model)
- [ECOP Tool Data Requirements](#) (how to edit this Excel file so that you can use your own data)
- [Implementation Toolkit](#): a service development guide to improving outcomes for older people living with frailty who have urgent care needs. Based on the overall learnings from the ECOP project, in combination   with the knowledge and experience of the NHS Elect Frailty Networks.