

Integrated Care Matters Webinar Series 9

The Role of Community Hospitals Flash Report

263 people from 31 countries registered for this webinar.

Dr Yoshihisa Honda, Primary Care Physician, CEO of Kaita Hospital, Japan and Founder of Community Hospital Japan, described Community Hospitals in Japan as offering an interface between ambulatory care, rehabilitation, sub-acute and post-acute internal medicine, and family health services. The introduction of technology enabled home care (like hospital at home), has increased the number of patients receiving end of life care at home. Dr Honda's colleague, Dr Shin Yoshida, added his personal reflections on the integrated model and thanked the UK Community Hospitals Association for hosting a study visit to Gloucestershire. You can listen to the recording [here](#).



Francesca Meda, Lecturer, SDA Bocconi School of Management, Italy, spoke about the key role of Community Hospitals and telemedicine in Italy's national Healthcare reform that aims to increase integration between hospital, local healthcare and social services. The plan is to establish 307 new community facilities by 2026, supported by clinical and organisational standards. The planning assumption is 20 community beds (in small hospitals or residential care units) per 100,000 population, as a mix of step-up and step-down intermediate care beds for patients with frailty or needing post-acute rehabilitation. She highlighted the risks if the purpose, scope and case-mix are not clear from the outset and if the community infrastructure is not well developed to allow timely return home. Staff competencies and information support were thought to be critical for success in the studies of early adopters in one region.

Dr Mante Hedman, Storuman Community Hospital, and Adjunct Lecturer, General Practice, Umeå University, Sweden described his experience of rural community hospitals in northern Sweden. These are managed by family physicians who are directly employed by the region for this purpose, working alongside a MDT. They provide a mix of inpatient care and minor injuries ED with access to basic imaging and point of care testing. He presented interesting data suggesting a pragmatic approach to investigating patients compared to those being managed in larger general hospitals. He cited the benefits of holistic care and continuity with the primary care team and local social care providers and spoke of similar findings in a study of GPs working in community hospitals in South Island New Zealand.

Take Home Messages

This is a perfect model for patient-centered hands on care and should be promoted

Community hospitals offer local, friendly and accessible care and rehabilitation services closer to home

- ⇒ The community hospital is an intermediate «bridge» between hospital, home, and community services and offers a vehicle for strengthening the system.
- ⇒ Understanding the added value of a community hospital stay for particular patient groups will inform how to select the right case mix.
- ⇒ The workforce and skill mix needs to match the case mix and complement the local health and community care team infrastructure.
- ⇒ A similar bed based intermediate care function could be provided in a dedicated section of a care home.
- ⇒ Community hospitals can offer excellent training for students of all disciplines.

Having an identified purpose, competencies, and supports is fantastic!

It was very informative and quite timely as many countries and provinces are considering this model

You will find the webinar recording [here](#)
Presentation slides and topic resource [here](#)

Register for the next webinar on 'Supported and Assisted Living' [here](#)



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