The role of the social worker for ESD began as 0.2WTE however it quickly became evident that this cohort of patients required significant psychosocial support and funding was sought to increase to 0.5WTE. The role of the social worker is to complete a comprehensive assessment based on the needs of the patient and their families and to provide both practical and emotional support through a very difficult time. The social worker will also provide an outreach service for patients or family members who require on-going social work input on discharge from the hospital. The social worker also applies for formal supports such as home care packages and liaises with public health nurses or other agencies and can make an onward referrals to services after the ESD service finishes working with a patient. The social worker attends both multi-disciplinary team meetings and the stroke board-rounds on the Stroke Unit, and works very closely with the MDT. The ESD MSW in the MMUH is the first of its kind and, as such represents a great opportunity for social work to develop an expertise in this clinical area. These specialist roles will allow social workers to develop skills, promote the social work profession and offers staff an opportunity to be seen as more than a discharge planner – we feel this is how medical social work will continue to thrive in today’s environment.

**The Role of the MSW within ESD:**

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**Stroke statistics in Ireland**

- Acute stroke- 2nd leading cause of death worldwide
- Leading cause of acquired disability in adults
- 7000 people hospitalised each year in Ireland
- 18-19% die as inpatients
- 5000-6000 require rehabilitation
- 3000 mild- moderate disability
- 2500 severe disability
- Approx. 10,000 incident acute cerebrovascular events (strokes and TI’s) in Ireland

**WHAT IS THE ESD FOR STROKE SERVICE?**

Our service aim is to facilitate the early discharge of patients who have had a stroke from hospital services. Patients will participate in rehabilitation in their own home.

The ESD team provide a Multi-disciplinary holistic approach when working with patients and their families. The service was piloted in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital in 2011 and since then has been taken up in 2 other hospitals – Tallaght Hospital and Galway. The MMUH is the only ESD service with a dedicated medical social work post.

**THE BEST PARTS OF ESD:**

**CLIENT:**
- Rehabilitation in the right place
- Improved function
- Improved self-reporting quality of life
- High rates of satisfaction
- Supporting carers of clients post stroke

**STAFF:**
- Ability to provide intensive treatment
- Learning: transfers into other environments. Providing support to both patient and carer.

Resilience Of Stroke Patients who were discharged with the ESD service were shown in our statistics to have improved in all aspects of their lives:

- Stroke and Aphasia Quality of Life showed an average improvement of 14%.
- 95-98% overall client and carer satisfaction with the service.
- 74% of clients achieved full independence by discharge from ESD.
- 51% of clients required no onward referral.
- 12% of clients had had a readmission and 4% were dead at 6 month follow up. There were no admissions to long term care.

“Learning to walk straight and managing finances. All the very practical activities to help with everyday life e.g. getting the bus.”