# Challenges and Controversies Surrounding 'Corridor Care' in NHS Hospitals



**Increasing Corridor Care in NHS Hospitals**

More hospitals in the UK are resorting to placing patients in corridors due to inadequate bed space. This practice, termed "corridor care," is seen by NHS administrators as a measure to expedite the freeing up of ambulances and ultimately save lives. However, patients, such as 68-year-old Gregory Knowles, have reported experiencing humiliating and inadequate conditions as a result.

Gregory Knowles was one of 13 patients left in a corridor at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (NNUH) in March following surgery complications. Placed without screens or basic amenities, Knowles and his family expressed their horror at the situation. His partner, Alicia Goulty, described instances where basic care, like changing leaky catheters and providing meals, was neglected.

NNUH and over 35 other hospitals have implemented the Continuous Flow Model since 2022, which involves moving patients from A&E to wards even if full. This model aims to reduce ambulance wait times, with North Bristol NHS Trust being among the pioneers. Prof Steve Hams from North Bristol NHS Trust claims the model has significantly cut ambulance handover delays and improved emergency response times for conditions like heart attacks and strokes.

Despite these improvements, the Royal College of Nursing and the Royal College of Emergency Medicine have expressed concerns. Medical researcher Dr. Louella Vaughan stated that overcrowded wards present increased mortality risks and condemned rushed implementations of the model. NHS England has no current plans for a national review of the corridor scheme but monitors various models to find safe and effective solutions. The Department of Health and Social Care has pledged additional funding and resources to create more hospital beds and support timely patient discharge.