

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine 2014 noted that “Unscheduled and Emergency Care Services in NI are facing profound challenges in the delivery of safe, efficient and effective care as patient demand rises”.

Only around 35% of the 800,000 people who attend Emergency Departments appropriately present with a true emergency. Evidence has shown that the current system neither makes the most of patient or clinician time, nor clinical or managerial resources. Notably in the context of the ongoing pandemic, it is important to address this level of inefficiency in the system. We need to ensure that our front line clinicians and their patients have access to timely, viable, safe and easily accessible alternatives