Background
• Neurological conditions are estimated to affect 10 million people across the UK.
• The National Service Framework for long term neurological conditions identified that a more coordinated service was required (DH 2005).

Generic Neurology Nursing Service
• Similar generic issues can be seen across most neurological conditions.
• These generic issues could be managed by a nurse led service based on general neurological nursing experience rather than disease specific experience.

Patients with non specific neurological conditions & whose condition is normally stable, currently do not have access to specialist nursing support & can end up being admitted to hospital as an emergency. This initiative aims to fill this service gap by providing access for these patients to address ad hoc problems as they arise & to promote self management.

Aim
The aim of this study was to evaluate the impact of the Generic Neurology Nursing Service on patients and carers.

Methodology
• A stakeholder evaluation encompassing qualitative methodology.
• NHS research ethics & PCT R&D approval obtained.
• Purposive sampling - Patients with a range of neurological conditions were included.
• Patients with accompanied carers who had been seen in the clinic (N=65) were invited to take part in an interview to explore their experience & perceptions of the service. 20 patients and carers agreed to participate.
• Thematic data analysis (Organization, Familiarization, Reduction & Analysis).

Results & Conclusions
• Across all the interviews there was a consensus of opinion that patients & carers were satisfied with the service provided by the Generic Neurology Nursing Service.
• It is suggested that this service can indeed provide comparable patient care to a more disease specific service. This service is clearly meeting the needs of this cohort of patients who previously were falling between the gaps in service provision.
• This study has shown how a novel approach to service design & delivery can help to bridge the gap for patients with neurological conditions. A rapid access service appears to prevent clinical emergencies & maintain patient self management.

Limitations of the Study
The small sample was limited to patients who had experience of this service. The organisation of the service & the support from a regional neurological centre may not be replicable & therefore further research in other locations is required.

References
For a full copy of the report go to; http://www.edgehill.ac.uk/eprc/DOCS/GenericNeurology_FullReport.pdf