

## Functional Neurological Disorder Pathway

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### Background

- Functional Neurological Disorder - describing motor and sensory symptoms that are experienced and related to a functional disorder.
- Over 50% of FNDs co-exist clinically with PPS (somatization disorder; somatoform pain disorder; undifferentiated somatoform disorder) (Fobian & Szaflarski, 2021; Girouard et al., 2019).
- The aim of this study is to present feasibility data from a neurotherapy pathway from East Surrey Hospital (ESH).

### Methods

- We conducted a prospective cohort study of patients presenting to ED followed by hospital admission.
- Inclusion criteria - diagnosed with FND, followed by referral to Neurotherapies and Liaison Psychiatry.
- Pattern of re-admission was recorded.

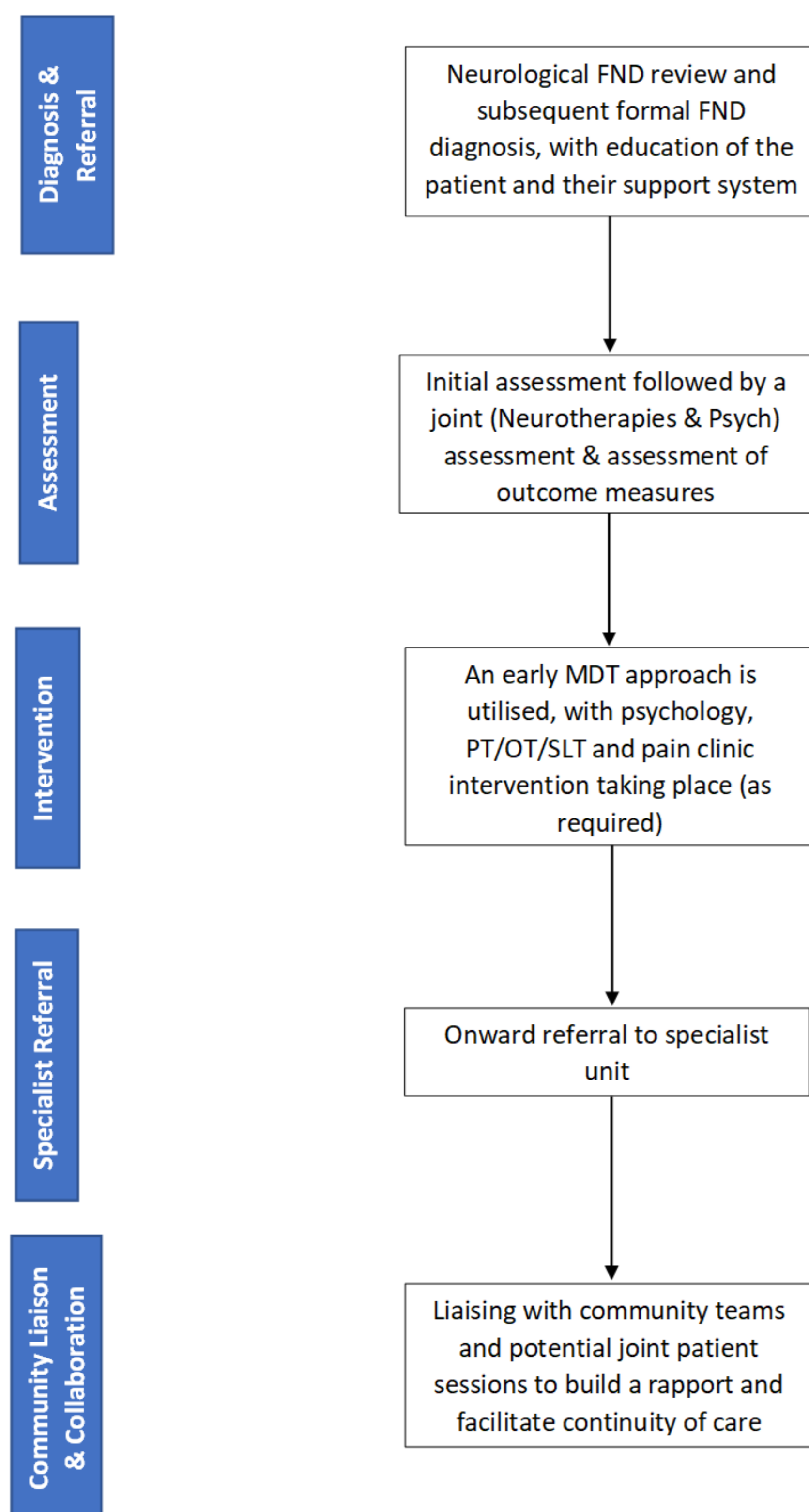


Figure 1. Flowchart representing the process of FND patient diagnosis, referral, intervention, specialist referral and community liaison and collaboration

### Results

- We worked with 26 patients
- 14 out of 26 have a formal diagnosis of FND by ESH Neurology.
- Mean of hospital admission days was 30.4 days.
- 2 out of 26 were re-admitted.
- The majority of the sample were within working age but older adults were also referred.

Type of presentation: Inpatient Admissions (light blue), ED Attendances (dark blue)

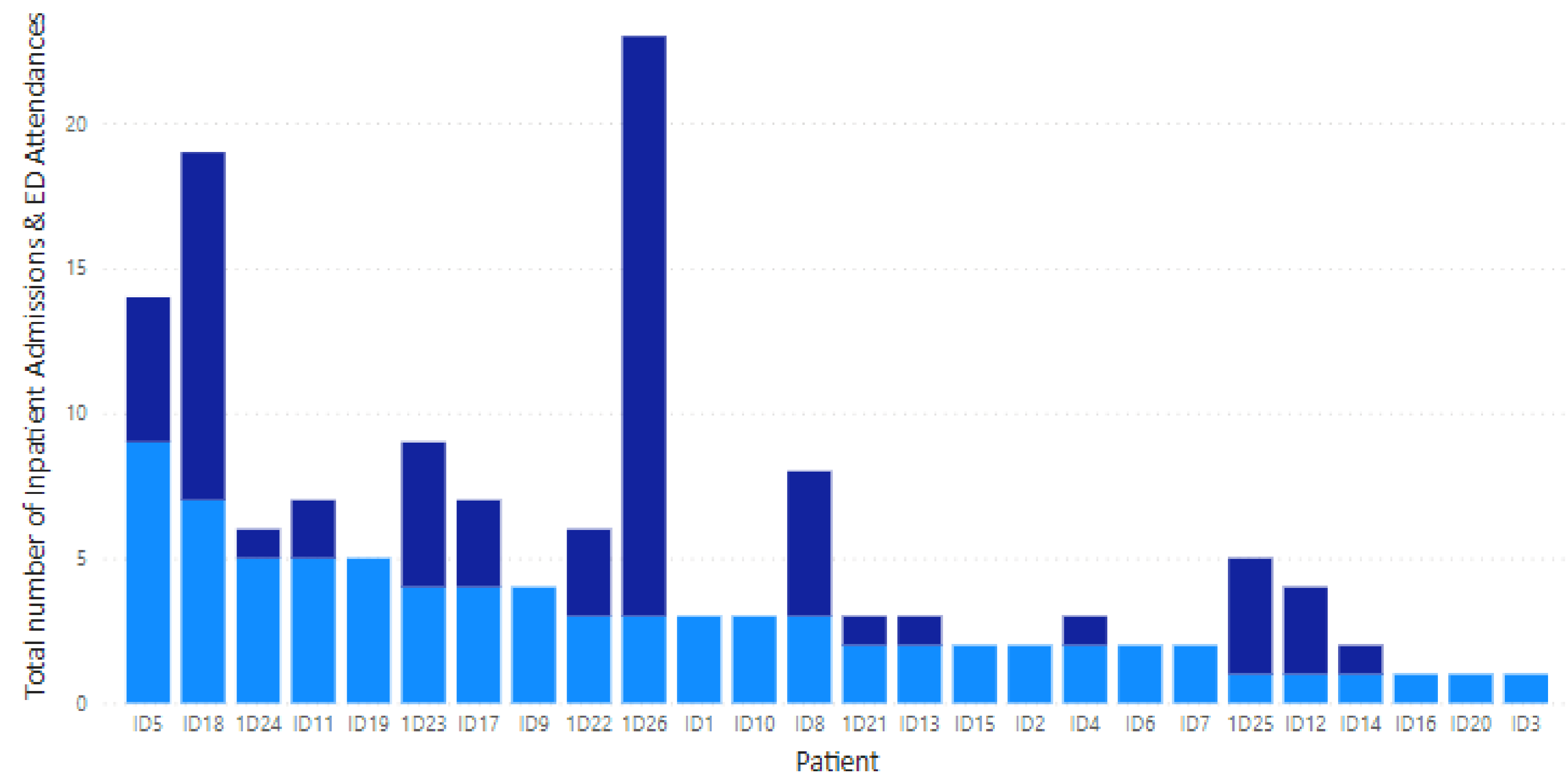


Figure 2. Total number of Inpatient Admissions and ED Attendances (2021 – Jan 2022 incl.)

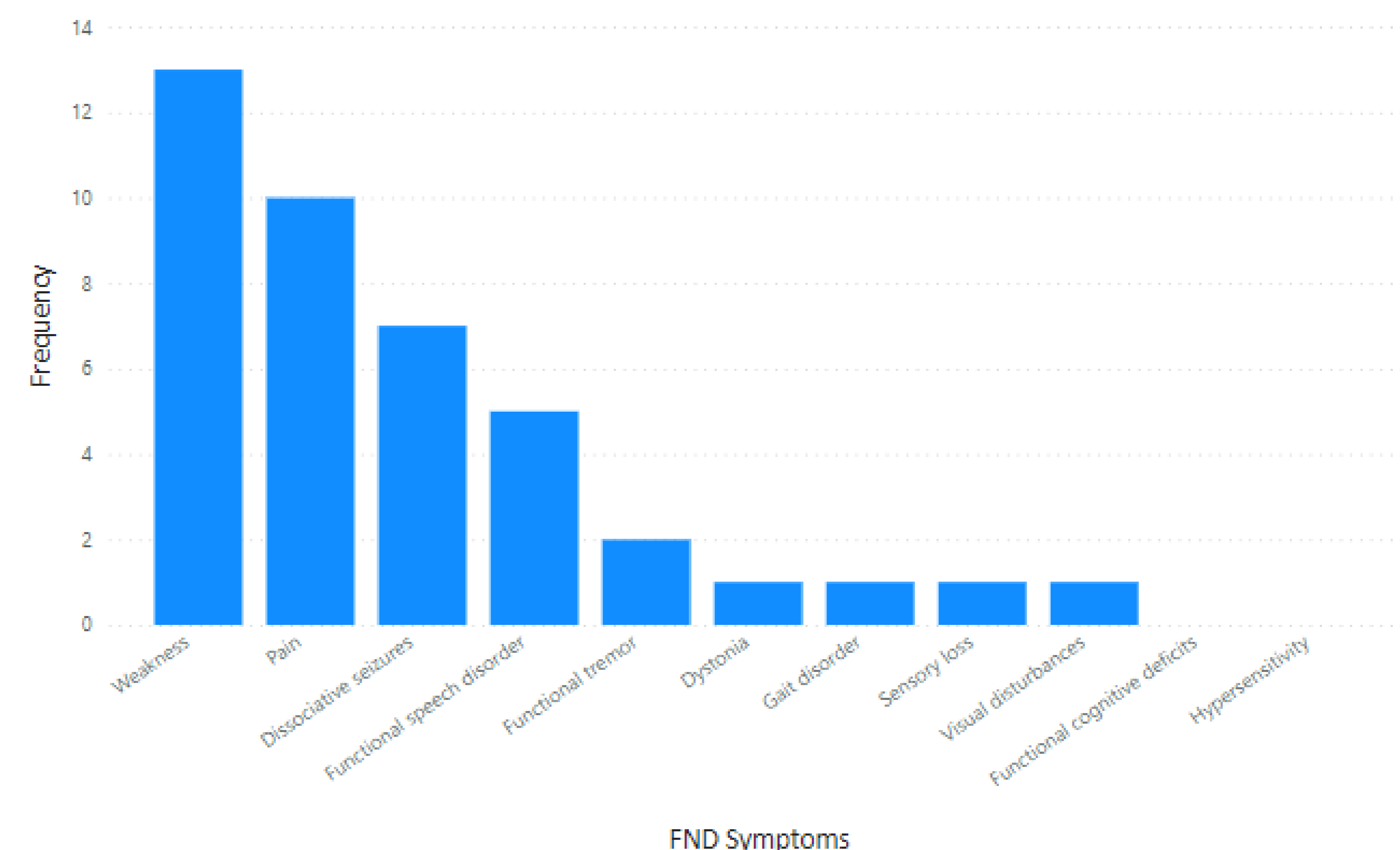


Figure 3. FND Patients' Symptoms

Table 1 Sociodemographic Characteristics of the Participants

| Sample Characteristics | n  | %    |
|------------------------|----|------|
| <b>Gender</b>          |    |      |
| Men                    | 7  | 26.9 |
| Women                  | 19 | 73.1 |
| <b>Age</b>             |    |      |
| Working Age            | 23 | 88.5 |
| Older Adult            | 3  | 11.5 |

### Conclusions

- The pathway is evidence based with biopsychosocial model supporting the patients to manage their own physical and mental illness.
- The enhanced pathway could avoid the reactive care and clinical management that tend to be overwhelming for the patient and NHS and contribute to reduce hospital admissions.

References are available from the authors.