



Effective Health Care

Long-term Care of the Frail Elderly

Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Long-term care of the frail elderly will go forward for refinement as a systematic review. The scope of this topic, including populations, interventions, comparators, and outcomes, will be further developed in the refinement phase.
- When key questions have been drafted, they will be posted on the AHRQ Web site and open for public comment. To sign up for notification when this and other Effective Health Care (EHC) Program topics are posted for public comment, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/join-the-email-list1/>.

Topic Description

Nominator: Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator is interested in long-term care for the frail elderly and suggests a comparison between home and community-based services and nursing home services.

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Population(s): Frail elderly (Nursing facility eligible>55, dually eligible and Medicaid only); Subgroup of interest: multi-system complex disease, including dementia

Intervention(s): Care provided in community-based setting using programs such as Medicaid's Home and Community-based Waiver Program (HCBW) and PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) and other managed care options

Comparator(s): Care provided in Nursing Facilities

Outcome(s): Maximum functionality; decrease in unnecessary hospitalizations and ER utilization, adequate preventive care; individual and aggregate costs

Key Questions from Nominator: None

Considerations

- The topic meets all EHC Program selection criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)

- Even though many older adults would prefer to remain at home, nursing homes and other institutional forms of care have historically been the dominant providers of long-term care. The shift in emphasis from institutional to home and community-based services is a major theme in long-term care policy formulation and implementation. The goal of helping older adults return to or remain in their own homes is often promoted as a means to reduce costs, improve quality of care and quality of life, and account for the preferences of older adults. Home and community-based care covers a wide range of services that most frequently includes case management and assistance in the form of health aide/personal care/homemaker.

- Early research on home and community-based care (from the mid-1970s through about 1985) has been well reviewed in the literature. In contrast, recent advances in long-term care, such as consumer-directed care and service integration, have not been systematically reviewed and summarized. Therefore, a review on this topic may have significant impact for patients and policy makers.