

Cost-effectiveness of home care versus assisted living facilities for individuals requiring additional supports

Population	Individuals requiring home care or assisted living facilities
Intervention/Exposure	Economic evaluation of home care costs (i.e., impact on productivity, well-being, QoL, overall health care)
Comparator	Economic evaluation of beds in clinical, institutional (long-term care, assisted living) settings
Outcomes	Healthcare costs; QoL

Interview Details:

Why did you choose this topic and why is it important to you?

- They have personal experience as a caregiver for a parent who was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia and was aging out of the mental healthcare system.
 - Given concerns about poor reputation of long-term care and COVID-19, parent moved in with them. They were unprepared and overwhelmed with workload.
 - Burden of caregiving had significant impact on wage earning, mental and emotional health, family workload, etc.
- Healthcare system does not have capacity to care for aging population resulting in a dependency on home-based caregiving, which lacks adequate supports.
- Work and good will of caregivers is being exploited by health care system.
 - Caregivers' personal resources decrease, but care recipients' needs may increase. Without support, people are forced to turn to institutions. This can be prevented if appropriate resources and supports can be provided.

What do you hope to learn from researching this topic?

- Quantify caregiving in family homes as part of overall health care infrastructure.
- Compare costs to institutional/organizational care with paid staff/infrastructure.
- Quantify cost and sustainability of moving beds from hospitals/long-term care/assisted living to homes.
- Quantifiable data on how caregivers are impacted and how they can be supported.
- Research could contribute to primary data collection system prototype to quantify work taken on by families.

Who needs to know about the findings?

- Caregivers
- Healthcare system (stakeholders)

Is there anything that you feel a panel of patients, caregivers, healthcare providers, and policy-makers should keep in mind when reviewing this topic?

- Policy of hospital to home, early hospital discharge, and aging in place are not supported by quantifiable data about how caregivers are impacted and how they can be supported.
- Lack of infrastructure.

Feasibility Assessment Results

Summary:

No reviews were identified during the scoping literature search.

Conclusion:

There is scope to conduct further research in this area.