



Effective Health Care

Comparison of Long-Term Care Settings for Patients with Dementia

Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Comparison of long-term care settings for patients with dementia 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-list/>.

Topic Description

Nominator: Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator is interested in the relationship between the patient and the caregiver and the best way to care for elderly patients including the most effective long-term care setting.

Staff-Generated PICO:

Population(s): All elderly patients with dementia

Intervention(s): Home or “home-like” setting

Comparator(s): Care provided in an institution such as an independent living, nursing home (skilled nursing facility), assisted living, or long-term care facility

Outcome(s): Patient caregiver relationship/bond, patient activity level, patient feelings of honor and enjoyment of activities.

Key Questions from Nominator:

1. What is the best way to care for the elderly?
2. How do the elderly want to be cared for and who gains from excellent care or sub-optimal care?

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/>.)

- Millions of Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease and it is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. Alzheimer's is the most common type of dementia. Dementia is a progressive, irreversible decline in mental function. People with dementia are high users of long-term health care services. Although most patients receive care at home, as their dementia progresses they generally receive more care from family and other unpaid caregivers. Many patients with Alzheimer's and other dementias also receive paid services at home, in adult day centers, in assisted living facilities, in nursing homes, or in more than one of these settings at different times in the course of their illness. As baby boomers age and the average lifespan grows, the prevalence of dementias will the need for caregivers for this population.

- There is a lack of evidence-based guidance available on the comparative effectiveness of long-term care settings for patients and families needing these often costly and important services. Therefore, a synthesis of what is currently known and not known, along with necessary areas of new research, is needed for this topic. This topic will move forward as a new systematic review on the comparative effectiveness of long-term care settings for patients with dementia.