

ResearchOne Data Service, 2015/16 – YHAHSN-Funded Projects

Lay summary

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The impact of quality of care for dementia on the risk of care home placement, hospital admission and mortality

A range of policy initiatives have been introduced in response to concerns about poor quality care for people with long-term conditions. An important initiative in the UK is the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), which provides large financial incentives to general practitioners (GPs) for providing high quality care. In the QOF annual dementia review, the GP examines the patient's mental and physical health, the impact of caring on the carer and the carer's need for information. The GP also makes sure that community and hospital services are co-ordinated, and joined up with social care and other services (e.g. home care) as relevant. The QOF payment depends how many of the practice's dementia patients are reviewed.

In principle, the dementia review should reduce avoidable hospital admissions, and support timely decisions on going into a care home. It may also reduce the risk of premature death. Our previous study [1] found that practices that reviewed more of their patients with dementia had fewer avoidable hospital admissions. We also found that if patients from these practices were admitted to hospital, they were less likely to be discharged into a care home. However, without patient level information on GP care it wasn't clear whether or not an individual had actually had a review. Therefore, we couldn't tell which aspects of care influenced our results.

ResearchOne has information about the care actually received by individual patients. This will allow us to examine what elements of care received by individuals with dementia can protect against acute hospital admission and subsequent care home placement, and which may reduce the risk of dying prematurely.

[1] Kasteridis P et al (2015). *The Influence of Primary Care Quality on Hospital Admissions for People with Dementia in England: a Regression Analysis*. PLoS One 2015;10(3):e0121506.

Website: http://eshcru.ac.uk/quality_productivity.htm