

The barriers, benefits, and enablers of acute home-based care for older people in Australia

Authors

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The challenge

What are the barrier, benefits and enablers of acute home-based care for older people in Australia? Specifically, we wanted to determine what acute home-based care research regarding people (65+) had already been completed in Australia, when and where. This would allow us to identify gaps in the literature and provide rationale for the PhD study.

What we did

Using a systematic approach, seven databases and citation searching resulted in 10 primary research articles being included in this systematic review. The Braun and Clarke thematic approach was used to analyze the data and determine the barriers, benefits and enablers within each article.

What we found

- No research targeting rural communities.
- No research has engaged older patients or carers of acute home-based care to understand their perspective or experience since 1996.
- No research has engaged health professionals of acute home-based care to understand their perspective or experience.
- Significant differences between acute home-based care admissions directly from the emergency department compared to transferred admissions from the ward.
- The terminology used for in hospital patients differed from acute home-based care patients, especially regarding key terms such as adverse events and re-admission.

What does this mean for health practitioners?

- The barriers, benefits and enablers of acute home-based care for older rural patients, carers and health professionals is currently unknown.
- Increased difficulty utilising acute home-based care research due to inconsistent reporting and use of key terminology.
- Research targeting rural communities, patients, carers and health professionals is needed.

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The DELIVER Research Project:

- Identifies what the people and healthcare providers of western Victoria need most in terms of home-based healthcare services
 - Designs and tests the best way to deliver these services, so that home-based healthcare services will continue to grow and improve across the region and beyond
 - Supports the growth of research in western Victoria, so that future research findings can quickly be translated to improvements in healthcare
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Reference

N. Bransgrove., J. E. Porter., B. Peck., J. Bishop. (2024). Barriers, benefits, and enablers of acute home-based care (HITH) for older people in Australia: A systematic review. *The Journal of Aging and Health*, Under Review.