



Research project summary

Predicting outcomes for Canadians receiving home care: An examination of home care delivery and impact

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- Administered by Bruyère Research Institute
- Summary reproduced from the CIHR website in the language provided

Supporting older Canadians through home care is a health policy priority in Canada. However, there are still significant gaps in access to care and quality of services that are provided. As a result, those who receive home care sometimes experience undesirable and potentially preventable health outcomes, such as hospital stays, emergency room visits, early entry to nursing homes, or even death. Part of the challenge is the underfunding of home care; this is why the Canadian government had recently promised to invest \$3 billion dollars in enhancing the care provided in this setting. An equal part of the challenge is a lack of evidence in what types of care people need and how much care is required to reduce adverse outcomes. This grant will use rich population-level data for those who are receiving home care to, first, describe the needs of home care recipients (e.g., disease and disabilities). We will also aim to explain the differences in the level and types of home care services provided in Ontario, and across several provinces in Canada. Finally, we will use statistical techniques to identify the mix (i.e., personal support workers, nursing) and intensity (i.e., hours per week) of services that may be required prevent unwanted outcomes for different types of home care users - paying special attention to people who are frail and may be nearing the end of life. We will build tools that will map out and predict how we can prevent these undesirable outcomes. The tools will be designed for patients, their family and caregivers to inform care planning, but could also be used by health care planners and policy makers to improve care for the entire population. Our goal is to generate knowledge and tools to inform current and new investments for home care, and can support interventions to improve care for Canadians, especially those who are frail and may be nearing the end of life.

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