

# From Hospital to Home: Assessing the Transitional Care Needs of Vulnerable Seniors

**Author/s:** Graham, Carrie L. Ivey, Susan L. Neuhauser, Linda | **Year:** 2009 | **Publication type:** Journal article | **Peer reviewed:** Yes | **Topic area/s:** Carers of CALD Older People, Community Care

**Reference:** Graham, C., S. Ivey and L. Neuhauser (2009) "From Hospital to Home: Assessing the Transitional Care Needs of Vulnerable Seniors" *The Gerontologist* 49(1):23-33

**Key Words:**

CALD Older People, Caregivers, Transition from Hospital to Home, Service Provision

**Research aim:**

This qualitative study assessed the needs of patients and caregivers during the transition from hospital to home. We specifically identified unmet needs of ethnic minorities, recent immigrants, and seniors with limited English proficiency (LEP). Findings are translated into recommendations for improving services to these groups during health care transitions.

**Results/Conclusion:**

Inadequate information and training at discharge were themes that spanned all groups, despite ethnicity or language. Additional unmet needs were identified for ethnic minorities, those with LEP, and recent immigrants, including lower levels of social support than might be expected, lack of linguistically appropriate information and services, and cultural and financial barriers to using long-term care services. Implications: As ethnic diversity increases among older Americans, it will become increasingly important to design health care services to meet the needs of diverse groups. Recommendations include assessments of informal care, bilingual information and services, partnerships with community agencies providing culturally competent services, and expansion of home- and community-based services to near-poor seniors.

**Implications:**

As ethnic diversity increases among older Americans, it will become increasingly important to design health care services to meet the needs of diverse groups. Recommendations include assessments of informal care, bilingual information and services, partnerships with community agencies providing culturally competent services, and expansion of home- and community-based services to near-poor seniors.

**Cultural Group(s):**

CALD and non-CALD

**Location of study:**

United States

**Age group:**

Mean age of 54

**Number included in study:**

159 caregivers

**Type of participants:**

Caregivers of an older person recently discharged from hospital

**Research approach:**

Qualitative

**Type of data:**

Primary

**Secondary data sources used:**

N/A

**Specific scales or analytical techniques used:**

**Implications/ Recommendations:**

**Notes:**