

Medical Crises in Older People: cohort study of older people attending acute medical units, developmental work and randomised controlled trial of a specialist geriatric medical intervention for high-risk older people; cohort study of older people with mental health problems admitted to hospital, developmental work and randomised controlled trial of a specialist medical and mental health unit for general hospital patients with delirium and dementia; and cohort study of residents of care homes and interview study of health-care provision to residents of care homes

John Gladman,^{1*} Rowan Harwood,² Simon Conroy,³ Pip Logan,¹ Rachel Elliott,¹ Rob Jones,¹ Sarah Lewis,¹ Jane Dyas,¹ Justine Schneider,¹ Davina Porock,⁴ Kristian Pollock,¹ Sarah Goldberg,¹ Judi Edmans,¹ Adam Gordon,² Lucy Bradshaw,¹ Matthew Franklin,¹ Katherine Whittamore,¹ Isabella Robbins,¹ Aidan Dunphy,⁵ Karen Spencer,⁶ Janet Darby,¹ Lukasz Tanajewski,¹ Vladislav Berdunov,¹ Georgios Gkountouras,¹ Pippa Foster¹ and Nadia Frowd¹

¹Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK

²Health Care of Older People, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, UK

³Department of Health Sciences, University of Leicester, Leicester, UK

⁴University at Buffalo School of Nursing, Buffalo, NY, USA

⁵Clinical Research Unit, Leicester Royal Infirmary, Leicester, UK

⁶Centre for Primary Care, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK

*Corresponding author

Declared competing interests of authors: Adam Gordon declares receiving grants from the British Geriatrics Society during the conduct of the study.

Published May 2015

DOI: 10.3310/pgfar03040

Plain English summary

Medical Crises in Older People

Programme Grants for Applied Research 2015; Vol. 3: No. 4

DOI: 10.3310/pgfar03040

NIHR Journals Library www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk

Plain English summary

This research studied three groups of frail older people: patients discharged from short-stay hospital wards, hospitalised patients with dementia and delirium, and care home residents.

For patients discharged from short-stay hospital wards we involved specialist doctors in geriatric medicine in their care and evaluated the impact of this in a randomised controlled trial (RCT). The specialist doctors brought about no benefit compared with usual practice and they were not cost-effective.

For hospitalised patients with dementia and delirium we developed a specialist unit to care for them and evaluated the impact of the unit in a RCT. We found that the unit had no significant benefits over usual care in terms of mortality, institutionalisation, mental or functional outcomes or length of hospital stay but there were benefits in terms of patient experience and quality of care and carer satisfaction with care. The unit was cost-effective.

For care home residents we interviewed staff who delivered health care to them. We found that the organisation of health care was variable, leaving many residents at risk of poor health care. This variability was explained by the types and sizes of care homes, the training of care home staff, the relationships between care home staff and the primary care doctors and the organisation of care for care homes and training in care home medicine among primary care doctors.

Programme Grants for Applied Research

ISSN 2050-4322 (Print)

ISSN 2050-4330 (Online)

This journal is a member of and subscribes to the principles of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) (www.publicationethics.org/).

Editorial contact: nihredit@southampton.ac.uk

The full PGfAR archive is freely available to view online at www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/pgfar. Print-on-demand copies can be purchased from the report pages of the NIHR Journals Library website: www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk

Criteria for inclusion in the *Programme Grants for Applied Research* journal

Reports are published in *Programme Grants for Applied Research* (PGfAR) if (1) they have resulted from work for the PGfAR programme, and (2) they are of a sufficiently high scientific quality as assessed by the reviewers and editors.

Programme Grants for Applied Research programme

The Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR) programme, part of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), was set up in 2006 to produce independent research findings that will have practical application for the benefit of patients and the NHS in the relatively near future. The Programme is managed by the NIHR Central Commissioning Facility (CCF) with strategic input from the Programme Director.

The programme is a national response mode funding scheme that aims to provide evidence to improve health outcomes in England through promotion of health, prevention of ill health, and optimal disease management (including safety and quality), with particular emphasis on conditions causing significant disease burden.

For more information about the PGfAR programme please visit the website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/programme-grants-for-applied-research.htm>

This report

The research reported in this issue of the journal was funded by PGfAR as project number RP-PG-0407-10147. The contractual start date was in August 2008. The final report began editorial review in March 2014 and was accepted for publication in October 2014. As the funder, the PGfAR programme agreed the research questions and study designs in advance with the investigators. The authors have been wholly responsible for all data collection, analysis and interpretation, and for writing up their work. The PGfAR editors and production house have tried to ensure the accuracy of the authors' report and would like to thank the reviewers for their constructive comments on the final report document. However, they do not accept liability for damages or losses arising from material published in this report.

This report presents independent research funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The views and opinions expressed by authors in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the NHS, the NIHR, CCF, NETSCC, PGfAR or the Department of Health. If there are verbatim quotations included in this publication the views and opinions expressed by the interviewees are those of the interviewees and do not necessarily reflect those of the authors, those of the NHS, the NIHR, NETSCC, the PGfAR programme or the Department of Health.

© Queen's Printer and Controller of HMSO 2015. This work was produced by Gladman *et al.* under the terms of a commissioning contract issued by the Secretary of State for Health. This issue may be freely reproduced for the purposes of private research and study and extracts (or indeed, the full report) may be included in professional journals provided that suitable acknowledgement is made and the reproduction is not associated with any form of advertising. Applications for commercial reproduction should be addressed to: NIHR Journals Library, National Institute for Health Research, Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre, Alpha House, University of Southampton Science Park, Southampton SO16 7NS, UK.

Published by the NIHR Journals Library (www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk), produced by Prepress Projects Ltd, Perth, Scotland (www.prepress-projects.co.uk).

Programme Grants for Applied Research Editor-in-Chief

Professor Paul Little Professor of Primary Care Research, University of Southampton, UK

NIHR Journals Library Editor-in-Chief

Professor Tom Walley Director, NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies and Director of the HTA Programme, UK

NIHR Journals Library Editors

Professor Ken Stein Chair of HTA Editorial Board and Professor of Public Health, University of Exeter Medical School, UK

Professor Andree Le May Chair of NIHR Journals Library Editorial Group (EME, HS&DR, PGfAR, PHR journals)

Dr Martin Ashton-Key Consultant in Public Health Medicine/Consultant Advisor, NETSCC, UK

Professor Matthias Beck Chair in Public Sector Management and Subject Leader (Management Group), Queen's University Management School, Queen's University Belfast, UK

Professor Aileen Clarke Professor of Public Health and Health Services Research, Warwick Medical School, University of Warwick, UK

Dr Tessa Crilly Director, Crystal Blue Consulting Ltd, UK

Dr Peter Davidson Director of NETSCC, HTA, UK

Ms Tara Lamont Scientific Advisor, NETSCC, UK

Professor Elaine McColl Director, Newcastle Clinical Trials Unit, Institute of Health and Society, Newcastle University, UK

Professor William McGuire Professor of Child Health, Hull York Medical School, University of York, UK

Professor Geoffrey Meads Professor of Health Sciences Research, Faculty of Education, University of Winchester, UK

Professor John Powell Consultant Clinical Adviser, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), UK

Professor James Raftery Professor of Health Technology Assessment, Wessex Institute, Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton, UK

Dr Rob Riemsma Reviews Manager, Kleijnen Systematic Reviews Ltd, UK

Professor Helen Roberts Professor of Child Health Research, UCL Institute of Child Health, UK

Professor Helen Snooks Professor of Health Services Research, Institute of Life Science, College of Medicine, Swansea University, UK

Please visit the website for a list of members of the NIHR Journals Library Board:
www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/about/editors

Editorial contact: nihredit@southampton.ac.uk