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Conference Abstract

Transitional Care Programme Evaluation – The Singapore Experience

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Abstract:

Movement and transfer of patients between healthcare practitioners or settings is a weak link in health service delivery. The impetus to ensure coordination and continuity of care during handovers led to the birth of transitional care. Till date there are numerous established models of transitional care internationally that have demonstrated promising outcomes. Although transitional care in Singapore is a nascent entity, it is rapidly gaining momentum across the country. It has in fact taken on several forms despite its short history of development locally. Comprehensive analyses of these various models is therefore crucial to facilitate better understanding about the impact of transitional care to the health service system.

A mixed method evaluation approach was used to examine the results of the Aged Care Transition (ACTION) Teams, the most mature transitional care programme in Singapore by far. The results showed that ACTION clients were less likely to be re-admitted to hospital [OR 0.6 (95% CI 0.6-0.7), $p < 0.001$] for up to 6 months post discharge and less likely to visit ED [OR 0.81 (95% CI 0.72-0.90), $p < 0.001$] for up to 30 days post discharge. The associated cost savings from reduced acute care utilisation was very sizeable. In addition ACTION clients reported positive responses to the quality of care transition, improved perception in health-related quality of life and favorable service satisfaction ratings. These findings confirmed the effectiveness of care transition interventions in our local context, and reinforced the pivotal role of transitional care in Singapore's healthcare system.

Keywords

evaluation, transitional care, Singapore, continuity of care, integrated care, coordination

Presentation available at <http://www.integratedcarefoundation.org/content/23-transitional-care-and-care-coordination>