

CHS

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***Home and Community Care Highlights***  
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*Home and Community Care Highlights* responds to decision-makers' needs for timely and relevant evidence by providing accessible synopses of recent research pertaining to the financing, delivery, and organization of home and community-based health care activities.

Synopses are provided in two formats. *Headlines & Conclusions* crystallize the take-home messages of the research in a few sentences. *Thumbnail Summaries* condense the background, methods, findings, and conclusions of the research into quick-to-use, single-page overviews that include reference information.

This digest is produced quarterly at the University of Toronto by the CHSRF/CIHR Health Services Chair in Health Care Settings and Canadians and remains the property of the Chair.

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This issue focuses on: caregiver needs variables and service use, the experiences of unpaid caregivers and the role of ethnic minority status, a home-care digital technology intervention, how technology can be used to meet the needs of the elderly, reducing costs through home medication monitoring, the effectiveness of home nursing programs, end-of-life care in the institutional setting, and factors that affect hospital discharge destination. The following topics are addressed:

1. Factors influencing the use of formal services among caregiver/recipient couples.
2. Caregiving experiences differ between those providing care to black Caribbean versus native-born white care recipients.
3. The use of digital photography in effective home care wound management.
4. Matching technologies to elderly home care recipients.
5. Using a portable coagulometer to monitor homebound elderly patients taking warfarin can save costs.
6. Home nursing care for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients shows potential.
7. Home hospice services are effective for end of life care.
8. Major determinants of hospital length-of-stay and discharge destination.