

CHSRF/CIHR Chair: Health Care Settings & Canadians
Department of Health Policy, Management & Evaluation
Faculty of Medicine
University of Toronto



For subscription information contact: Peter C. Coyte
Telephone: 416/978-8369; Fax: 416/978-7350
Email: peter.coyte@utoronto.ca
Courier address: 155 College Street, Suite 425
Toronto, Ontario M5T 3M6
<http://www.hcerc.utoronto.ca>

Home and Community Care Highlights
Volume 4, Number 4: December 2005

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.

The Chair is supported by the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation in partnership with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and by the regional co-sponsor, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

This issue focuses on: home and community care programs for chronic conditions, comparing costs of providing cancer care in the home versus in the hospital, the relationship between staffing levels and not-for-profit versus for-profit ownership of nursing homes, patient perceptions regarding Internet guidance from physicians, the impact of Internet training sessions on the elderly, the use of an economic framework to make resource allocation decisions, unnecessary drug medication following hospital discharge, and conceptual issues associated with providing care in the home. A consistent theme emerged upon reviewing articles for this issue: many studies illustrated the efficacy of new and innovative home care programs, but do not provide information on their costs. The following topics are addressed:

1. Unnecessary drug use at hospital discharge among frail elderly patients
2. Cancer care treatment at home: A cheaper alternative?
3. Implementation of an evidence-based leg ulcer service: Improved clinical and cost outcomes
4. A community-based exercise program for the elderly with chronic stroke
5. Lessons learned using an economic framework for resource allocation decisions in the Calgary Health Region
6. Patient perspectives on Internet guidance from physicians
7. The impact of teaching elderly patients to use the Internet to manage their own care
8. Staffing levels in long-term care facilities: Does type of ownership matter?
9. Recognizing the uniqueness of the home as a site for long-term care