

interlinks

Health systems and long-term care for older people in Europe Modelling the interfaces and links between prevention, rehabilitation, quality of services and informal care

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Case 2: Mr. L.T.C Dementia – in Berlin, Germany 2009

SETTING		At Home, Informal Care	At Home, Informal + Professional Care	Hospital	Short Term/ Part Time Institutional Care	Nursing Home, Assisted Living/ Sheltered Housing
PATHWAY		Diagnosis + Early Support	Care Delivery in the Community	Crisis Intervention	Crisis Intervention Short-Term Admission	Long Term Institutional Care
WHO IS INVOLVED (selection of typically involved actors)	Family/ Friends/ Neighbours	initiate contact to GP	do informal case management complement formal care	engagement is often crucial for pathway decisions after acute crisis	services (day care, etc.)	are often crucial for organising medical and social care (GP and specialists visits, voluntary services, etc.)
	GP	does dementia assessment refers to specialist for diagnosis	is responsible for medical follow up, home visits, therapeutic devices	is recipient of discharge information after hospital stay, organises follow-up	is responsible for medical care also during inpatient care (visits at institution)	is responsible for medical care
	Medical Specialists	refine diagnosis and therapy, geriatric assessment in specialist practice (outpatient/inpatient)	offer outpatient services (e.g. memory clinic) for follow up	are responsible for geriatric assessment and treatment (psychiatric, neurological) in case of acute deterioration	are responsible for medical care (visits at institution)	are responsible for medical care
	Alzheimer Society	involved for knowledge transfer, counselling for patient and family	offers knowledge transfer and support services for informal carers	offers counselling and knowledge transfer for patient and family		offers additional community services within nursing home (palliative care, voluntary social care)
	Community Care Services (Health + Social Care)		deliver home care according to needs assessmentapply preventive/rehabilitative concepts of activating care	are recipients of discharge information after hospital stay	often do case management by ensuring continuity and information exchange between residential and community care	
PROBLEMS		Area-wide preventive activities not available (e.g. preventive visits for elderly) GPs: not always well trained (dementia remains under diagnosed, not sufficient referrals to specialists) Alzheimer Society: not involved systematically	Clear task sharing/case management for dementia pathway lacking (GP is weak as gatekeeper and case manager) Scarce home visits by GPs (disincentives) Discrimination of dementia patients in needs assessment criteria Private co-payment for adequate community care Financial scarcity in community care challenges quality (e.g. lack of time, unskilled staff)	Geriatric/specialised rehabilitation units not available everywhere (lack of resources) Discharge Management: Decisions about appropriateness of home care dominated by hospital staff Informal carers, Alzheimer Society, information centre for LTC not systematically involved Gaps in information transfer (e.g. medication)	underdeveloped Private co-payment required Access often depends on family's engagement Access to medical care difficult	Undersupply of medical care (GP and specialist home visits) Specialised care (e.g. palliative services) not systematically involved Nursing home staff not always properly trained for dementia care Not enough specialised care units Quality assurance insufficient (especially for innovative assisted living/ sheltered housing projects) Lack of private financial resources restricts choice of nursing home