

The changing functional needs and dependency of people living in care homes: Evidence from use of the Indicator of Relative Need in Scotland

February 2017

Publication Date – 28 February 2017

About this release

This report, published by Information Services Division, describes the findings of a survey of functional needs/dependency levels of residents in a sample of care homes in Scotland in late 2014. The report shows the variation in needs across homes and uses data from earlier surveys to evidence how dependency levels have changed over time. The measurement of functional need uses the Indicator of Relative Need (IoRN). The care home IoRN categorises functional need into 8 distinct groups – people in Group A have the lowest support needs whilst people in Group H have highest needs.

Main points

- 45 percent of care home residents in the 2014 sample had a high level of support need to carry out activities of daily living (ADL).
- A further 12 percent had a medium level score on ADL but they also had support needs due to a risk of harm or behaviours such as may occur in advanced stages of dementia.
- The survey results provide evidence of a rise in the number of residents with more complex support needs since 2006 and earlier.
- Around one resident in six is in the most functionally independent group (Group A).

Background

Purpose of the project

The specific intention of the project has been to obtain reliable evidence on the functional or dependency levels of residents at a point in time and to compare the findings with similar data collected in the past.

This report describes how the project was carried out and presents the main findings. The analyses are based on a sample of 65 care homes and five very sheltered housing facilities. The 65 care homes contributed 97% of the total resident data and because of this predominance the description care home residents is used throughout this report.

The availability of similar information from past surveys allows a comparison to be made between the dependency profile of current residents against past profiles.

More about the IoRN

Indicators of Relative Need are a **family** of tools developed in Scotland of which the care home or Augmented ioRN is one of the widest used. These tools have a common format that comprises answers to a specific range of questions and a summary IoRN Group that is determined by an algorithm. The format of the IoRN tools means that the responses at an individual level can be readily aggregated across many residents to provide a summary profile for a home.

The themes within the Augmented ioRN questionnaire are:

Activities of Daily Living (ADL): comprising eating, transferring and mobility, toileting and dressing;

Relevant risk and behaviour issues: comprising risk of harm, cooperation with care, the need for immediate intervention and verbal aggression;

Where the person's ADL score is high, account is taken of continence.

Contact

Peter Knight

Head of Service

Health and Social Care Integration

peter.knight7@nhs.net

0131 275 6461

Find out more

A link to more detail about the care home Augmented IoRN

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Health-and-Social-Community-Care/Care-Homes/Staffing-Model/>

ISD and Official Stats

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. [Find out more about our statistics.](#)