

## Poster Presentations

### 97 AGEING POPULATION: THE IMPACT ON ADMISSIONS TO LONG-TERM CARE

R. McCormack, S. McNally, D. O'Shea  
*St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin, Ireland*

**Background:** The aging population of Ireland continues to increase rapidly. As the age continues to increase, so too does the need for long-term care (LTC). In 2006 LTC utilisation was estimated between 4.4%–4.8% of the over 65s population. It was proposed that this would increase to between 4.8%–5.3% by 2021 (Wren et al., 2012). This study intended to explore if this projection was evident in discharges from an acute Care of the Older Person's setting between 2016 and 2021.

**Methods:** A random selection approach was used to retrospectively review 45 patients seen by occupational therapy in an Irish acute Care of the Older Person's service in

2016. Discharge destinations were recorded. These were then compared to the discharge destinations of 45 randomly selected patients open to occupational therapy in the same service during the first half of 2021.

**Results:** The review of 2016 found that 15.56% (n = 7) of those seen by occupational therapy discharged to a LTC facility, and 4.45% (n = 2) discharged home with a back-up LTC plan. Additionally, 33.33% (n = 15) transferred to a rehabilitation facility and 42.22% (n = 19) went home with community supports, 4.44% (n = 2) passed away.

Contrastingly, in 2021, 28.89% (n = 13) patients discharge to LTC with an additional 6.66% (n = 3) going home with 24/7 private care in place, and 4.45% (n = 2) went home with a LTC back-up plan. Just 22.22% (n = 10) went for rehabilitation and 26.67% (n = 12) went home with community supports. In 2021, 11.11% (n = 5) of those randomly selected passed away during their admission.

**Conclusion:** A significant increase of the number of inpatients discharging to LTC between 2016 and 2021 was found. These findings are greater than that previously proposed and may suggest that COVID-19 has caused a further increase in individuals requiring LTC. However, this sample size was small and other factors such as age, physical ability and cognition were not explored. Further studies are recommended.