

Review Article

Open Access

Advantages of Strengthening the Long-Term Care Facilities' Networking with Hospitals and Community Services

Pavani Kottapalli

USA

ABSTRACT

Although people live longer in developed countries, it may not be the quality metric for healthy living. This rapid aging is concerning due to the unmet psychosocial needs and the diagnosed and potential chronic disease conditions. Furthermore, despite the government, policymakers, and researchers tirelessly trying to design modern long-term care services to meet the dual needs of the aging population, such as psychosocial and medical needs, progress is being limited. Unfortunately, as much as every person wishes to age in their comfort home, community living is not ideal for everyone due to their complex needs and family circumstances. Therefore, at present, around 1.3 million elderly and other dependent populations are living in more than united states certified nursing homes. Where these nursing homes serve as temporary residences for some of them until they recover and for some as permanent residences due to homelessness and poverty [1]. However, most of these nursing homes in the United States are cited as a concern for the quality. Therefore, the author wants to gain insight into strengthening long-term care networking with broader healthcare settings such as hospitals and community-based services contribution to the quality of nursing home care.

***Corresponding author**

Pavani Kottapalli, USA.

Received: November 02, 2024; Accepted: November 09, 2024; Published: November 20, 2024

Introduction

Networking among healthcare systems is a routinely recommended process to meet unmet health-associated social needs of the high-risk population. However, the research on networking strategies, sustainability of partnerships with hospitals and community organizations, and their benefits are limited [2]. Furthermore, Improving the quality of care in nursing homes touches many aspects, such as abuse, neglect, poor quality of life, high cost, lack of personal advocates, inconsistent regulatory oversight, and inadequate availability of standardized information and available communication [1]. However, the author would like to focus on networking to improve the quality of care in homes.

Although government and policymakers are putting efforts into improving community-based services to allow older people to age at their homes, the need for nursing home transformation is growing day by day due to various reasons like economic reasons, where people do not have funding to receive community services, social reasons; many older adults or dependent people are isolated and lonely in the community due to family circumstances, finally care-related reasons; where families are not in the capacity to take care of cognitively impaired where the institutional setting is ideal for the families and the resident [3]. Even though abolishing nursing homes may benefit some older people, it may leave many helpless without access to the needed services [3]. Therefore, the author would like to explore the necessity of bridging the gap by networking among community-based services, nursing homes, and hospitals, as well as the benefits of networking and its role in quality improvement.

In the past few years, fragmented healthcare has remained a significant concern for policymakers and researchers due to the limited resources and increased aging population with complex health needs. Therefore, the healthcare industry has promoted integrating various healthcare settings and systems to meet the population's health needs [4]. However, nursing homes often collaborate poorly with hospitals or community-based settings, which is an apparent quality concern due to the community involvement needed in emergency preparedness and the historical community stigma over nursing homes and care delivery [1]. Furthermore, fragmented care systems impede the partnership among healthcare systems and cause delays in addressing the population's psychosocial and long-term medical needs; therefore, Increased utilization of acute care services raises healthcare costs [2].

The other significant benefit of partnering with hospitals and community-based organizations is that it improves the transition of care via effective communication about practices and care coordination and reduces adverse effects. Also, partnering with state and local technical assistance programs that allow the nursing homes to connect with the academic centers enables the nursing homes to improve quality care and comply with federal and state regulations. It also further helps nursing homes to integrate with the community and hospitals [1].

Additionally, incorporating nursing homes with the federal state emergency-prepared plans and local communities bridges the gaps and helps the nursing homes establish robust emergency-

prepared plans. Connecting nursing homes with community-based organizations and involving residents in community-based activities improves the quality of care and life and the community's trust. Therefore, this may give the community a positive perception of nursing homes, which may also help transform the nursing home culture and change its image.

However, networking interactions among healthcare systems also require networking among the teams within the health setting to improve the quality. Still, the network of interactions within the health settings is sustained by the notion that they can lead to efficiency and quality in care delivery in the health system. At the same time, all these are based on descriptive studies [5]. Therefore, networking in healthcare settings needs more research to understand its quantifiable impacts and more required insights on strategies, sustainability networking context, and adaptability, such as evidence on which networking process works under what context.

In conclusion, networking among the healthcare systems enhances the collaborative care and expertise of the care teams and improves inclusion and transition care. Additionally, integrating health information systems and AI with required policies and protective strategies among health systems may boost the effect of networking.

References

1. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Health and Medicine Division, Board on Health Care Services, Committee on the Quality of Care in Nursing Homes (2022). The national imperative to improve nursing home quality: Honoring our commitment to residents, families, and staff. National Academies Press <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK584662>.
2. Agonafer EP, Carson SL, Nunez V, Poole K, Hong CS, et al. (2021) Community-based organizations' perspectives on improving health and social service integration. BMC Public Health 21: 452.
3. Grabowski DC (2021) The future of long-term care requires investment in both facility- and home-based services. Nat Aging 1: 10-11.
4. Karam M, Chouinard MC, Poitras ME, Couturier Y, Vedel I, et al. (2021) Nursing Care Coordination for Patients with Complex Needs in Primary Healthcare: A Scoping Review. International journal of integrated care 21: 16.
5. Saatchi AG, Pallotti F, Sullivan P (2023) Network approaches and interventions in healthcare settings: A systematic scoping review. PloS one 18: e0282050.

Copyright: © 2024 Pavani Kottapalli. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.