



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisunta Cúnta,  
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta –  
Rochtain & Comhtháthú

Aonad 4, Lárionad Gnó,  
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**Deputy Paul Murphy**  
**Leinster House**  
**Kildare St**  
**Dublin 2**

**18<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

**PQ 28504/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health the processes that are in place to assess the impact of transfer trauma for older people in care in Ireland.**

<https://emancipatorysciences.ucsf.edu/eslabblog/nursing-home-residents-transfer-trauma-or-relocation-stress-syndrome>

Transitions of care are an integral part of patient care. Transitions of care refers to the various points where a person moves to, or returns from, a particular physical location or makes contact with a health care professional for the purposes of receiving health care. This includes transitions between home, hospital, residential care settings and consultations with different health care providers in out-patient facilities.

Transitions from one care setting to the next are often accompanied by changes in health status. Older people with complex health issues are most likely to undergo multiple transitions of care and are at the highest risk for adverse events and safety incidents.

There is no easy solution to providing safer care transitions. A range of strategies are needed. Both large- and small-scale interventions have been tested at the macro (health care system), meso (health service organization) and micro (service delivery) levels. The target groups for these potential solutions vary and include people within a specific geographical area, those with a particular disease or disability and people with specific care needs.

A meta-analysis found that the most successful strategies to improve transitions of care were communication, and relationship and process strategies, particularly those focusing on coordination of care. Interventions that received the highest rating from patients included strategies to enhance relationships between health care providers and patients.



<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/252272/9789241511599-eng.pdf;jsessionid=C19C41C18EF5BCFDD8C3A91157315F36?sequence=1#:~:text=The%20term%20%E2%80%9Ctransitions%20of%20care,definition%20of%20transitions%20of%20care>

A comprehensive assessment of health care needs is undertaken for patients/residents that transition from one care setting to another and the receiving facility will ensure that they can meet the person's health care needs with involvement of the person and their family as appropriate to minimise any impact on the person.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Patricia Whelehan'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

**Patricia Whelehan**  
**AND Services for Older People**  
**National Office, Access and Integration**