Adding to the transitional care evidence base for future national guidance

McDonagh, Janet E; Farre, Albert; Aldiss, Susie; Biggs, Katie; Campbell, Fiona

DOI:

[10.1136/bmj.i3710](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.i3710)

License:

Other (please provide link to licence statement)

Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Citation for published version (Harvard):

McDonagh, JE, Farre, A, Aldiss, S, Biggs, K & Campbell, F 2016, 'Adding to the transitional care evidence base for future national guidance', *BMJ*, vol. 354, pp. i3710. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.i3710>

[Link to publication on Research at Birmingham portal](#)

Publisher Rights Statement:

Checked 23/8/2016

General rights

Unless a licence is specified above, all rights (including copyright and moral rights) in this document are retained by the authors and/or the copyright holders. The express permission of the copyright holder must be obtained for any use of this material other than for purposes permitted by law.

- Users may freely distribute the URL that is used to identify this publication.
- Users may download and/or print one copy of the publication from the University of Birmingham research portal for the purpose of private study or non-commercial research.
- User may use extracts from the document in line with the concept of 'fair dealing' under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (?)
- Users may not further distribute the material nor use it for the purposes of commercial gain.

Where a licence is displayed above, please note the terms and conditions of the licence govern your use of this document.

When citing, please reference the published version.

Take down policy

While the University of Birmingham exercises care and attention in making items available there are rare occasions when an item has been uploaded in error or has been deemed to be commercially or otherwise sensitive.

If you believe that this is the case for this document, please contact UBIRA@lists.bham.ac.uk providing details and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate.

LETTERS

TRANSITION TO ADULT SERVICES

Adding to the transitional care evidence base for future national guidance

Janet E McDonagh *senior lecturer in paediatric and adolescent rheumatology*¹, Albert Farre *research fellow*², Susie Aldiss *researcher in child health*³, Katie Biggs *research associate*⁴, Fiona Campbell *research fellow*⁵

¹Centre for Musculoskeletal Research, Stopford Building, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PT, UK; ²Institute of Applied Health Research, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK; ³School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Surrey, Guildford, UK; ⁴Clinical Trials Research Unit, School of Health and Related Research, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK; ⁵Health Economics and Decision Science, School of Health and Related Research, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK

We wish to highlight a Cochrane review,¹ published since the 2016 NICE guidance for transitional care,² that concluded that evidence is limited on how transitional care should be delivered.¹

Challenges to research are centred on evaluating a complex intervention that crosses medical, social, and educational disciplines, as well as paediatric and adult services. Furthermore, prospective research that extends from early adolescence (as current guidance advocates) through to the post-transfer period in adult care is challenging in today's financial climate. We await with interest the three year follow-up data from a current prospective study funded by the National Institute for Health Research.³

The NICE guidance refers to the importance of “developmentally appropriate” care,² and yet definitions of such care for young people are lacking in the literature.⁴ In an editorial discussing why transitional care is so challenging to implement, Scal proposed reframing transition within the context of adolescent healthcare and said that transition should be considered “a developmental milestone rather than a healthcare crisis.”⁵

An ethnographic study in three UK hospitals reported wide variation in the operational definitions of “developmentally appropriate” healthcare as perceived by a range of clinicians and managers.⁶ Progress in transitional care research, as well

as in service delivery, is likely to be enhanced by adopting and attending to a greater developmental focus (a “life course approach”) rather than the institutional focus (ie, change in service provision) that currently prevails.

Competing interests: None declared.

Full response at: www.bmj.com/content/353/bmj.i2225/rr-1.

- Campbell F, Biggs K, Aldiss SK, et al. Transition of care for adolescents from paediatric services to adult health services. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2016;4:CD009794. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD009794.pub2. PMID:27128768.
- Singh SP, Anderson B, Liabo K, Ganeshamoorthy T, on behalf of the guideline committee. Supporting young people in their transition to adults' services: summary of NICE guidance. *BMJ* 2016;353:i2225. doi:10.1136/bmj.i2225 PMID:27170336.
- Colver AF, Merrick H, Deverill M, et al. Transition Collaborative Group. Study protocol: longitudinal study of the transition of young people with complex health needs from child to adult health services. *BMC Public Health* 2013;13:675. doi:10.1186/1471-2458-13-675 PMID:23875722.
- Farre A, Wood V, Rapley T, Parr JR, Reape D, McDonagh JE. Developmentally appropriate healthcare for young people: a scoping study. *Arch Dis Child* 2015;100:144-51. doi:10.1136/archdischild-2014-306749 PMID:25260519.
- Scal P. Improving health care transition services: just grow up, will you please. *JAMA Pediatr* 2016;170:197-9. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2015.3268 PMID:26618900.
- Farre A, Wood V, McDonagh JE, Parr JR, Reape D, Rapley T. Transition Collaborative Group. Health professionals' and managers' definitions of developmentally appropriate healthcare for young people: conceptual dimensions and embedded controversies. *Arch Dis Child* 2016;101:628-33. doi:10.1136/archdischild-2015-309473 PMID:26945026.

Published by the BMJ Publishing Group Limited. For permission to use (where not already granted under a licence) please go to <http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions>