

Right place, Right time, Right assessment; the impact of Occupational Therapy input in early review of social care needs

Rachel Cassidy, Team Lead Occupational Therapist, Reablement and Early Review, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Review Period August 2024 to August 2025

Background

- Domiciliary care is essential for supporting timely hospital discharges
- Demand for care consistently exceeds availability
- Delays in reviewing care packages can lead to:

1. Over-provision - individuals receiving unnecessary care

2. Under-provision - individuals with deteriorating needs receiving insufficient support

Aim

- Enhance the timelines of domiciliary care reviews post hospital discharge thus ensuring care packages meet current needs
- Implement a structured review process within 8 weeks to reduce over and under-provision, improving patient outcomes and optimising resources

Measures of Success

- 90% of service users discharged with domiciliary care packages have this reviewed within 8 weeks of hospital discharge
- Number of care hours recycled back into community
- Feedback from service users

Key Insights

501
Packages
Reviewed

Gender Demographics

36% Males 64% Females

Age Profile

199

85 +

92

65 - 74

210

75 - 84

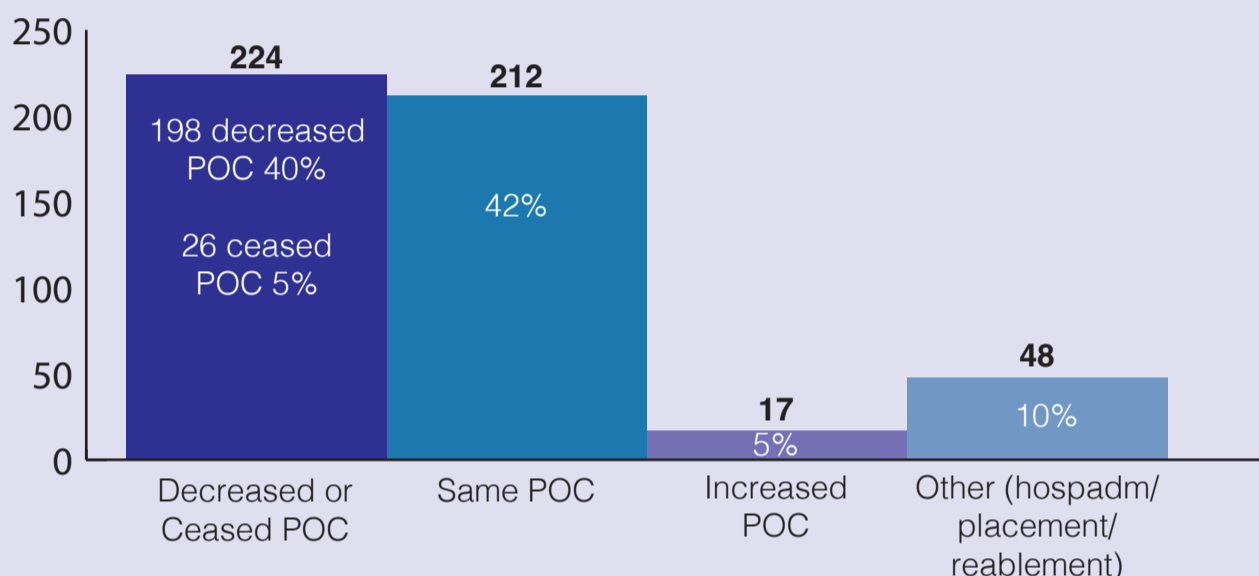
What We Do

- **Assess function:** evaluate how service users manage daily tasks in their own home
- **Review Support:** examine existing domiciliary care to ensure it meets current needs
- **Adapt care packages:** recommend changes based on functional outcomes and goals

Focus

- **Promote independence:** support service users to do more for themselves, safely
- **Reduce Risks:** identify hazards and prevent deterioration
- **Collaborative Planning:** work with service users, families and professionals to shape person-centered care

Service User Outcomes



Conclusion and Outcomes

100% of service users accepted, were reviewed within 8 weeks of domiciliary care commencing.

Impact of Early Reviews: A total of **1276.75** hours were released back into domiciliary care as a result of Occupational Therapy Early Intervention

Sustained Efficiency: **6 months later 50% of the released hours had not been reinstated**, indicating sustained appropriateness of reduce care packages.

Cost Savings: This equates to a **real-term saving of £348,552.75**, which can be reinvested to enhance service capacity and responsiveness across the system

Take Home Message

- Timely Review of domiciliary care is essential
- Occupational Therapists are key in promoting independence through adaptive techniques, equipment and rehabilitation
- Service users should be assessed at home to determine longer term needs

