

R. BOND, L. CARRAGHER. *Cost-benefit analysis of integrated home care and supporting technologies for independent living: Utilizing the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation framework. Gerontechnology 2010;9(2):198; doi:10.4017/gt.2010.09.02.231.00* **Purpose** Government policy is to support older people to live in their own homes for as long as possible¹, with home care representing a significant component of health care spending in all developed countries. In Ireland, the cost of home care to Government was €55 million in 2006, doubling to €110 million in 2007, before settling at €120 million in 2008-2009 for 12,000 clients². Despite the rapidly growing costs of home care, there has been little to no attempt to compile information to support an effective cost-benefit analysis. Comprehensive information to support effective governance in the delivery of services is therefore urgently needed. This study applies a modified version of the cost-benefit framework developed by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation³ to compare the effectiveness of a new model of integrated home care delivered to vulnerable older people in County Louth, Ireland. **Method** A cost-benefit framework was developed using Microsoft Excel to facilitate computation of all costs associated with the delivery of the new model of care to a select number of clients. In addition, effects on applicants were considered using Quality Adjusted Life Years as a unit of effectiveness. **Results & Discussion** Preliminary results support home care as the most cost effective model of care. Home care will continue to grow and expand with the anticipated growth in the number of vulnerable older people. Increasingly, the delivery of services will also be shaped by new and more advanced technologies. Cost-benefit analysis has emerged as a practical response to the need to distribute finite resources. Yet, there is a dearth of comprehensive data on the delivery of home care to vulnerable older people. This study can make an important contribution to the literature. Full results will be available in April 2010.

References

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	Rates	Units	Client CT1				Client DI	
			Resource for period				Resource for period	
			resource	cost	STATE	FAMILY	resource	cost
HSE			74 weeks				35 weeks	
Day Care	50.3	visit	74	€ 3,722	€ 3,426	€ 296	35	€ 1,761
Hospital admissions	1000	day	9	€ 9,000	€ 9,000	€ 0	0	€ 0
Extended care (LTC)	1000	week	0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	12	€ 12,000
HSW1	16.5	hour	383	€ 6,320	€ 6,320	€ 0	420	€ 6,930
HSW2	16.5	hour	537	€ 8,861	€ 8,861	€ 0	0	€ 0
HSW3	16.5	hour	0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	0	€ 0
Meals on wheels	16	Units	0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	0	€ 0
HSE care subtotal				€ 27,902	€ 27,606	€ 296		€ 20,691
Family								
Meals		11 meal	74	€ 814	€ 0	€ 814	245	€ 2,695
practical		5 trip	74	€ 370	€ 0	€ 370	0	€ 0
Other		0		€ 0	€ 0	€ 0		€ 0
Family subtotal				€ 1,184	€ 0	€ 1,184		€ 2,695
Neighbour								
Meals		10 meals	370	€ 3,700	€ 0	€ 3,700	0	€ 0

Figure 1. Cost-benefit framework for home care