

Caregiver support services – Perception of needs over time from caregivers of the frail elderly

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Abstract

With an ageing population, the need for a principal caregiver would increase as the elderly advanced in age and declined in mobility. Although there were a slew of services at the hospital and community levels to help caregivers manage their caregiving role and minimise caregiver burden, there had been limited studies to investigate how caregivers would rank the importance of these services and if caregiver's needs would change over time as they continued providing care for their loved ones. This study thus aimed to (i) profile caregivers of frail elderly; (ii) investigate the support needs of these caregivers and their perception of the usefulness of existing caregiver services; (iii) identify service gaps that might exist in the current range of caregiver support services; and (iv) evaluate if there was an association between rating of usefulness of services and the length of time as a caregiver. 84 participants were interviewed at a location of their choice using a questionnaire and the Carer Strain Index.

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