Appendix 1 – MEDLINE search strategy

1  exp homes for the aged/ or exp nursing homes
2  exp Housing for the Elderly
3  (nursing adj1 home$).tw
4  (residential adj1 aged).tw
5  or/1-4
6  exp emergency medical services/ or exp emergency service, hospital
7  exp Emergencies
8  exp Emergency Medicine
9  ED.tw
10  (emergency and department).tw
11  A&E.tw
12  (accident adj1 emergency).tw
13  or/6-12
14  5 and 13
15  exp Family Practice
16  exp patient care planning/ or exp primary health care/ or exp delivery of health care/ or exp after-hours care/ or exp managed care programs/ or exp disease management/ or exp patient care team
17  15 or 16
18  5 and 17
19  exp Hospitalization
20  hospitali#ation.tw
21  19 and 20
22  13 or 21
23  18 and 22
24  23 not 14
Appendix 2 – Summary of trials excluded after full text review

Three described the same cohort of patients as included studies [1-3].

Four restricted analysis to certain subsets within the RACF population studied [4-7].

A single centre UK publication described 0.3 acute admissions per RACF bed per year, but this study included direct GP referrals to inpatient teams and contained no information on patients discharged from ED [8].

Two studies compared emergencies in RACF to community dwelling older people, but contained insufficient data to calculate total transfer rates [9, 10].

A study describing ambulance transfers to ED found that RACF patients made up 1.7% of all hospital admissions via ED, but contained insufficient data to determine what proportion of all ED cases this group comprised [11].

An additional publication of a large dataset contained a single sentence stating that for 2.8 million (2.6%) of ED visits in the USA from 1992 to 2001, nursing home or other institution was recorded as the patient’s residence [12]. As the age of these patients, and the nature of other institution, could not be ascertained from the publication, we did not include this in our analysis though the figure of 2.6% is close to that found in other publications.

Many studies referred to hospitalization rates from RACF without any reference to ED, or ambulance transfer rates from RACF to any location, and were also excluded [13-25].


Appendix 3 - Full Reference List from article text

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