



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Spending Review 2021: Expanded Provision of Home Support and Total Costs of Long Term Care for Older Persons – A Scoping Review and Exploratory Analysis

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Spending Review 2021 – Overview, Aims and Objectives



Overview

- Long term care for older persons includes care provided in the community in people's own home, which can be unpaid care by family/friends or professional care provided by public or private providers, as well as residential care in public or private nursing homes. The provision of long term care for older persons is an increasingly important health policy issue in Ireland and internationally, due to rising demand and increased expenditure associated with population aging.

Aims and Objectives

- The aim of this paper is to conduct a scoping review of the available literature on the impact of increased provision of home support services on overall costs of long term care for older persons, and to develop a framework for exploratory analysis of the main drivers of the cost and cost-effectiveness of expanded provision of home support in Ireland, and how these interact.

Spending Review 2021 – Key Findings



Key Policy Relevant Findings

- Implementing a statutory home support scheme has the potential to significantly increase costs of long term care. However, careful targeting of services and effective cost controls may help limit expenditure increased associated with enhanced service provision.
- The degree to which increased home support provision substitutes for family/unpaid care is likely to be a more important cost driver than either the extent of any crowding out of private spending on home support care, or substitution of nursing home care by home support.
- As well as being a useful tool for assessing the potential costs of expanded home support, the model can also be used to explore the degree of improvement in health related quality of life that would be needed for a new scheme to be considered cost effective using conventional willingness to pay thresholds in Ireland.
- These findings are intended to highlight important considerations that can contribute to the design of a statutory home support scheme and inform the development of a plan to monitor and evaluate the scheme following implementation.