

**A series
of research
projects about
health and
social care for
older people.**



Implementation of the Assessment at Home Pathway

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This research explores the AAH pathway as experienced by a mix of health and social care staff, carers and service users in the first six months of this new hospital discharge pathway.

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Overview

Assessment at Home (AAH) is a new hospital discharge pathway for people over 65 years of age with complex needs.

This research is a small scale exploration of the experiences and perspectives of staff (10), carers (5) and service users (4) involved in the early stages of the implementation of the Assessment at Home Pathway.



Enablers

- A title reflecting that the AAH assessment begins in hospital and continues through to review in the community.
- Clear guidance and knowledge of the resources available for assessing and supporting the service user safely at home.
- Clear, unambiguous, inter-agency communication between agencies, the service user and carer during pre and post discharge processes.
- Service user capacity to engage and make decisions or an Adult with Incapacity proxy prepared to contribute to the assessment process.
- Relatives or carers who can provide emotional and caring support.

Process and interagency co-operation

- Risk assessment of AAH referrals by social work services and the multi-disciplinary team.
- Engagement of all stakeholders in the pre-discharge case discussion, and, where relevant, in the review process in the community.
- Ensuring the full care package is in place prior to discharge e.g. home care support, health & social care services, telecare, 15 minute responder for emergencies, carer support services etc.
- Care management and review.
- Enhancing inter-agency working could reduce any differences in professional approaches to AAH.
- Flexible community services that can respond to changing needs of service users.