

Forecasting Length of Stay and Cost (FLoSC)

Funded by Care Services Efficiency Delivery Programme, Department of Health
Start date: June 2007
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Website: <http://www2.wmin.ac.uk/hscmg/FLoSC/>

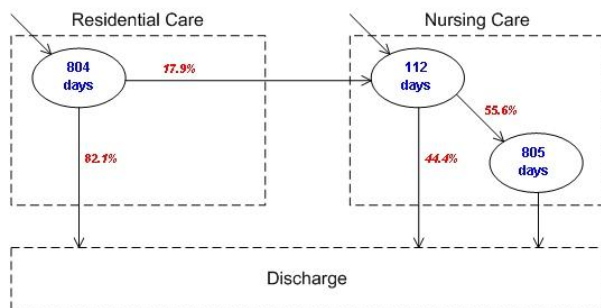
Brief

Local councils in England required a forecasting tool to assist them with their planning of social care by:

- Analysing the patterns of length of stay (LOS) for publicly funded residents in institutional long-term care (LTC);
- And forecasting cost of a council’s publicly funded residents currently in institutional LTC.

The tool should aim to quantify the source of uncertainty related to known and unavoidable commitments and forecasts the resulting financial impact.

Residents' movements and patterns of LOS



Our approach

The tool, FLoSC is a software implementation of a novel forecasting framework. It extracts high level patterns of residents' LOS and movements in institutional LTC based on data routinely captured by local councils, such as date of admission, date of discharge, destination of discharge, etc. Further, average weekly cost for each type of care, namely residential care (RC) and nursing care (NC), is incorporated to give a forecast of the cost arising from looking after the known commitments.

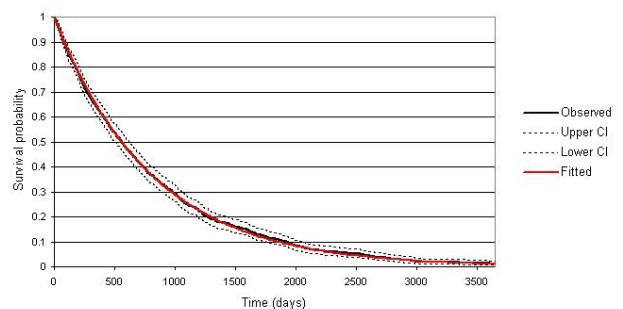
In order to help local councils in managing their data input to FLoSC, FLoSC-PAD (FLoSC – Preparation & Analysis of Data), a spreadsheet tool, was created.

Benefits

Knowing the projected cost associated with known commitments is of particular interest to local councils as it corresponds to the burden that they cannot escape, this information will enable local councils to identify the

fraction of their budget that is already committed due to past admission decisions. Given this information, local councils will have a fair idea about the resources available for new admissions in a financial year. FLoSC can also be used to compare forecasts under different cost scenarios, which may reflect possible future changes in pricing or costing policy. These functionalities are of crucial importance to the planning of a successful budget for LTC at local authority level.

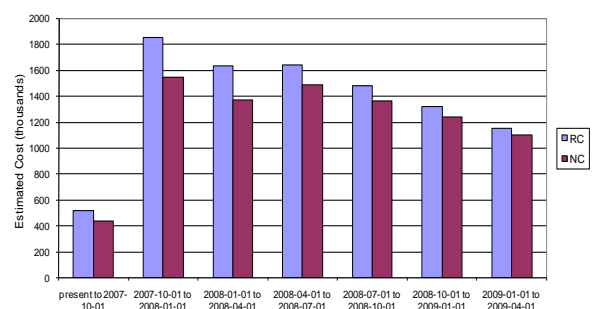
Survival curve for residential care



“By February 2008,150 downloads registered including 119 council users in 76 different councils, PCTs and PH etc” Ray Beatty, CSED.

FLoSC was also tested for care groups, e.g. Physically Frail, Palliative and Learning Disability (LD), within the NHS continuing healthcare system in London to support Primary Care Trusts in budget planning and improve their responsiveness to meet the increasing demand under limited availability of resources. This second study was undertaken in collaboration with the NHS London Procurement Programme (LPP). An anonymised dataset containing information for all funded admissions to placement and home care in the NHS continuing healthcare system was provided by 26 (out of 31) London primary care trusts.

Estimated cost by type of care



Contact

Prof. Thierry Chausalet: HSCMG@westminster.ac.uk