

Have your say on improving hospital discharge summaries.

Can you support your residents and their relatives to have their say on improving how hospitals communicate with care homes?

We are looking for care homes in England to support a research project aimed at improving how hospitals communicate with care homes through discharge summaries. These summaries explain a resident's care needs after leaving the hospital, and we want to make them clearer and more useful.

Care homes can take part by selecting a resident to join each steering committee meeting. There will be 8 meetings over three years and this will allow different residents to contribute throughout the project.

About the care home

- The care home should be in England
- Be a non-nursing residential care home for older people or have a section of the care home that is non-nursing
- Be able to stay involved in the three years of the project

About the resident

- We are looking to meet residents who live in a non-nursing residential care home
- The resident can be joined and supported by a friend or family member throughout the research
- Would like to share their thoughts on how we can improve hospital discharge summaries

About the Project

This is a 3-year PhD project that aims to make discharge summaries clearer, so hospitals and care homes can work better together and provide better care for residents. The care home will support residents to join the steering committee. A steering committee is a group that gives advice and shares ideas to help guide a project. The steering committee will include health and social care professionals, residents and representatives from social care and hospital discharge policy and research. This research will focus on making hospital discharge summaries easier to understand, using a "health literacy" approach. Health literacy means being able to use reading, writing and numeracy skills in health-related situations.

The research has four parts:

1. Understanding the health literacy skills of the social care workforce
2. Understanding different views on discharge summaries from both hospital teams and social care professionals
3. Writing guidance for writing hospital discharge summaries
4. Exploring how AI (artificial intelligence) can help write discharge summaries

The project is being hosted by the Vivaldi Network at University College London and is funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research. It will be led by doctoral candidate Dr Calisha Allen.

The resident and relative role:

The role includes:

- Contribute to a steering committee. The project will be over three years, and they will have the option to take part in one or multiple meetings as you prefer.
- Reading papers before steering committee meetings. This will include research related papers.
- The option to join preparation meetings before each steering committee, online
- Giving some extra help to the researcher by answering some questions between meetings, by phone call or email

We are committed to making the opportunity as inclusive as possible and are open to different ways in which the resident might be able to take part. This may be through residents joining the main meetings online, sharing their thoughts with a friend or relative who would represent them online or meeting with the researcher in-person at their care home to share their thoughts separately.

Benefits

- Residents will be paid £25–£75 for each meeting depending on the meeting length, through vouchers
- Where residents are being supported by friends or family in the meetings, they will also be paid the same for their time
- Microsoft package for the resident and relative (if needed)
- Reasonable small technical accessories to join online meetings if needed (e.g. webcam)

How to apply:

If you are a care home leader, please send an email expressing your care home's interest to rmhical@ucl.ac.uk by 9am on 14/07/2025.

Email subject heading: Bridges Steering Committee: Care home [NAME OF CARE HOME]

In your email please include:

- The name and postcode of your care home
- If your care home has been involved in research previously

If you have any questions and would like to meet before sending an expression of interest, please email Dr Calisha Allen rmhical@ucl.ac.uk who will be happy to discuss.