

Nursing home use up with cognitive impairment category

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(HealthDay)—Nursing home (NH) use increases with increasing

cognitive impairment category, according to a study published online Sept. 11 in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

Jane A. Emerson, from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and colleagues estimated NH use among 3,545 Mayo Clinic Study of Aging participants (aged 70 to 89 years), assessed as cognitively normal (CN), [mild cognitive impairment](#) (MCI), previously unrecognized [dementia](#), or prevalent dementia.

The researchers found that the percentages who died in the year after cognition was assessed were 1, 2.6, 4.2, and 21 percent among those categorized as CN, MCI, previously unrecognized dementia, and prevalent dementia, respectively. The percentages with any NH use were 3.8, 8.7, 19, and 40 percent, respectively, with 27, 38, 120, and 305 median NH days and 7.8, 12, 33, and 100 percent median percentages of NH days/days of observation, respectively. A significantly higher proportion had any NH use for each increase in cognitive impairment category. Individuals with prevalent dementia and any NH use had especially high one-year mortality (30 percent versus 13 percent for those with no NH use). Among those with prevalent dementia, 58 percent of all deaths occurred while an NH resident.

"Reductions in NH use could result from quality alternatives to NH admission, both among persons with MCI and persons with dementia, together with suitable options for end-of-life care among persons with prevalent dementia," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to pharmaceutical companies, including AbbVie, which partially funded the study.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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