

Exploring the Discharge to Assess Model: Patient, Family & Staff Perspectives

BACKGROUND: In March 2020 the government published COVID-19 Hospital Discharge Service Requirements which made a number of assumptions about discharge needs of patients with COVID-19¹. These have since been replaced by a similar Hospital Discharge Policy² which is relevant for all hospital patients. According to this policy, when a patient in hospital no longer meets the Criteria to Reside, they must, when clinically safe, be discharged as soon as possible. Discharge to Assess (D2A) is the default option for every patient who requires their care needs to be assessed. The D2A model consists of 4 pathways, 0,1,2 and 3 (see image 1).

The D2A model is used within hospitals across the United Kingdom, but there is little research around patient experiences of this model.

There is increasing pressure to discharge patients from hospital due to system pressures, however there has been little exploration of the experiences and perspectives of being discharged from hospital to an interim 24 hour care setting (Pathway 2).

AIM: To explore patient, family and staff perspectives and experiences of Discharge Pathway 2 from hospital (being discharged from hospital to an interim 24 hour care setting)



METHODS: Qualitative semi-structured interviews with 5 recently discharged patients, 5 caregivers and 5 members of staff (who work within discharge services).

This project will be completed in tandem with my colleague (AOD) who will be investigating patient experiences of Pathway 1.

Due to the population group interviews will be conducted either in person or over video call depending on patient preference & current infection prevention guidance.

ACTIONS TO DATE:

- Extensive discussions regarding recruitment and ethics
- PPI meetings with discharged patients, family caregivers & staff
- Updating of research documents and creation of easy read formats
- IRAS application [awaiting sign off]



NEXT STEPS:

- Awaiting outcome of IRAS application.
- Starting recruitment – consent to contact forms
- Conducting qualitative interviews
- Analysis
- Write up & Dissemination



REFERENCES:

Department of Health and Social Care (2020) COVID-19 Hospital Discharge Service Requirements
 Department of Health and Social Care (2022) Hospital discharge and community support guidance

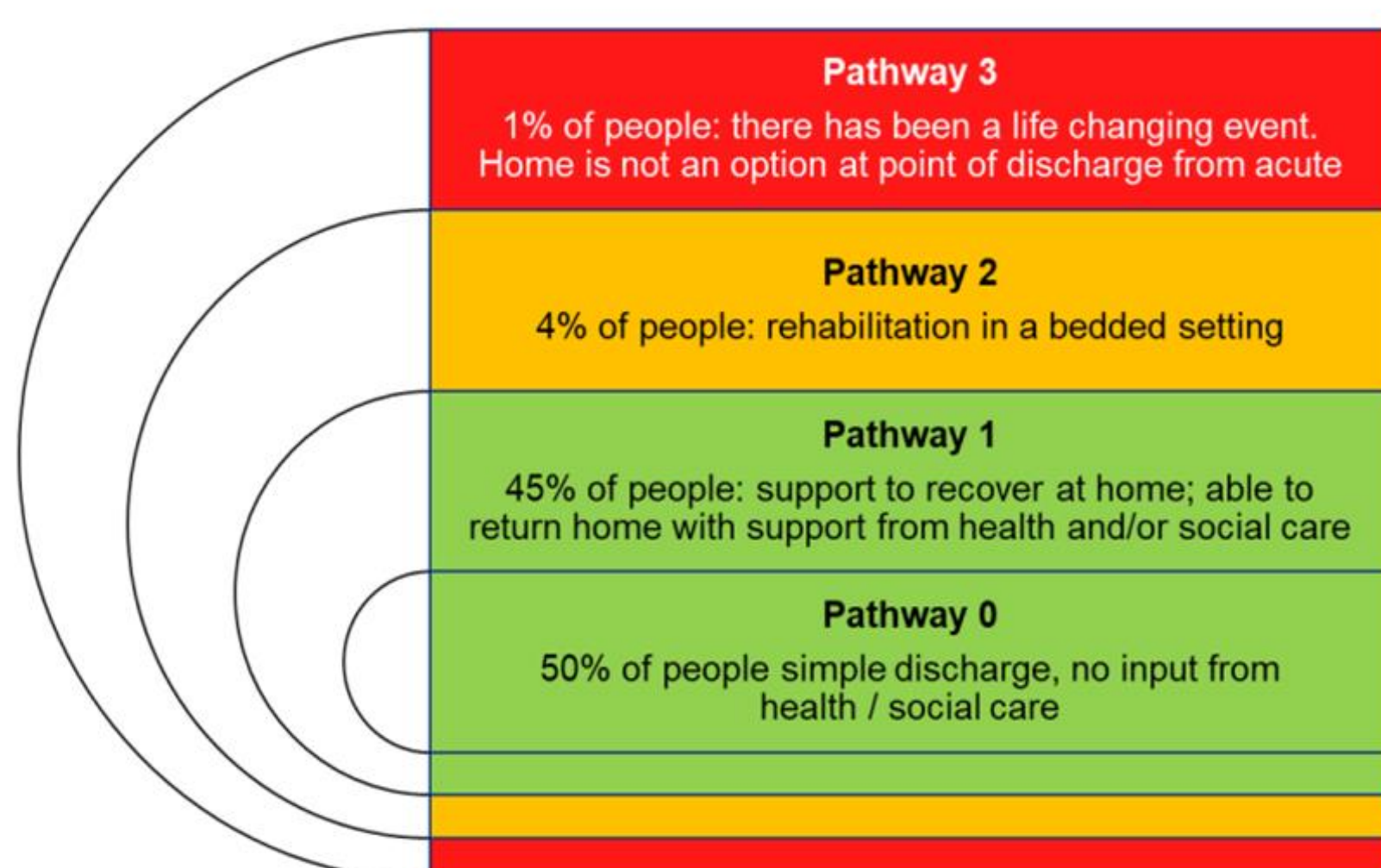


Figure 1: Discharge to Assess model

Figure 1: Discharge to Assess Model: Department of Health and Social Care 2022²