

FINANCIAL PLANNING AS PART OF AN INTEGRATED CARE COMPREHENSIVE GERIATRIC ASSESSMENT

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BACKGROUND

Evaluation of a social support network, including the need for support in managing finances independently is an essential component of Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA). Safeguarding of finances (e.g. third party authorities, enduring power of attorney, will) should be encouraged in all order adults, particularly those with cognitive decline to provide security and protection of their wishes should they lose capacity to manage financial decisions. We sought to evaluate financial competency and preparedness in a population attending our integrated care for older persons service (ICPOP). Participants included were new patients referred to ICPOP between January and May 2023 with completed CGAs. A retrospective analysis was conducted of patient demographics, ability to independently manage finances, dependency on personal and instrumental ADLs.

METHODS

Participants included were **new patients** referred to ICPOP between **January and May 2023** with completed CGAs.

A retrospective analysis was conducted of

- patient demographics,
- Ability to independently manage finances
- Level of dependency that the person had for personal and instrumental activities of daily living.

RESULTS

	Total (n = 85)
Age- median	81
Gender Female	48(56%)
No. of Patients with a diagnosis of Dementia	52(61%)
Median Rockwood Clinical Frailty Scale	5
Median Barthel Score	17
Median Lawton Brody Score	4

60% (n=51) of patients **collected their own pensions** and on specific questioning self-reported managing their finances independently

- No patient had an advanced care directive,
- **90%** (n=77/85) **did not have an EPoA**
- **41%** (n=35/85) **did not have a will.**

LAWTON - BRODY INSTRUMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING SCALE (I.A.D.L.)

H. Ability to Handle Finances	
1. Manages financial matters independently (budgets, writes checks, pays rent, bills, goes to bank), collects and keeps track of income	1
2. Manages day-to-day purchases, but needs help with banking, major purchases, etc.	1
3. Incapable of handling money	0

80% (n=68) patients scored 1 in the financial section, which indicates that their **ability to manage their finances is partially or completely intact**

CONCLUSIONS

We identified that in those attending our service, very few had an EPoA in place with no person having a documented advanced care directive. Over half required some if not total assistance with financial matters

The project was based primarily on the CGAs carried out by ICPOP Galway teams. We are linked closely with primary care networks, home help agencies and voluntary organisations such as the Alzheimer's society. We also work with patients recently discharged from Galway University Hospital.

Supported decision making is essential to uphold the right of the older person to make choices on their welfare, property and affairs and CGA provides opportunity for intervention in this remit. We should consider financial planning as part of the CGA to empower older adults to be continually independent with their finances where possible.

Acknowledgements and Collaborators

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Galway Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons