

Evaluating the effect of a rehabilitation policy and service change on facility-level activity of daily living and fall quality indicators in Ontario long-term care homes

Caitlin McArthur^{1,2}, John Hirdes³, Ashok Chaurasia³, Katherine Berg⁴, Lora Giangregorio^{5,6,7}

1. GERAS Centre for Aging Research
2. McMaster University
3. University of Waterloo
4. University of Toronto
5. Toronto Rehabilitation Institute - University Health Network
6. Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

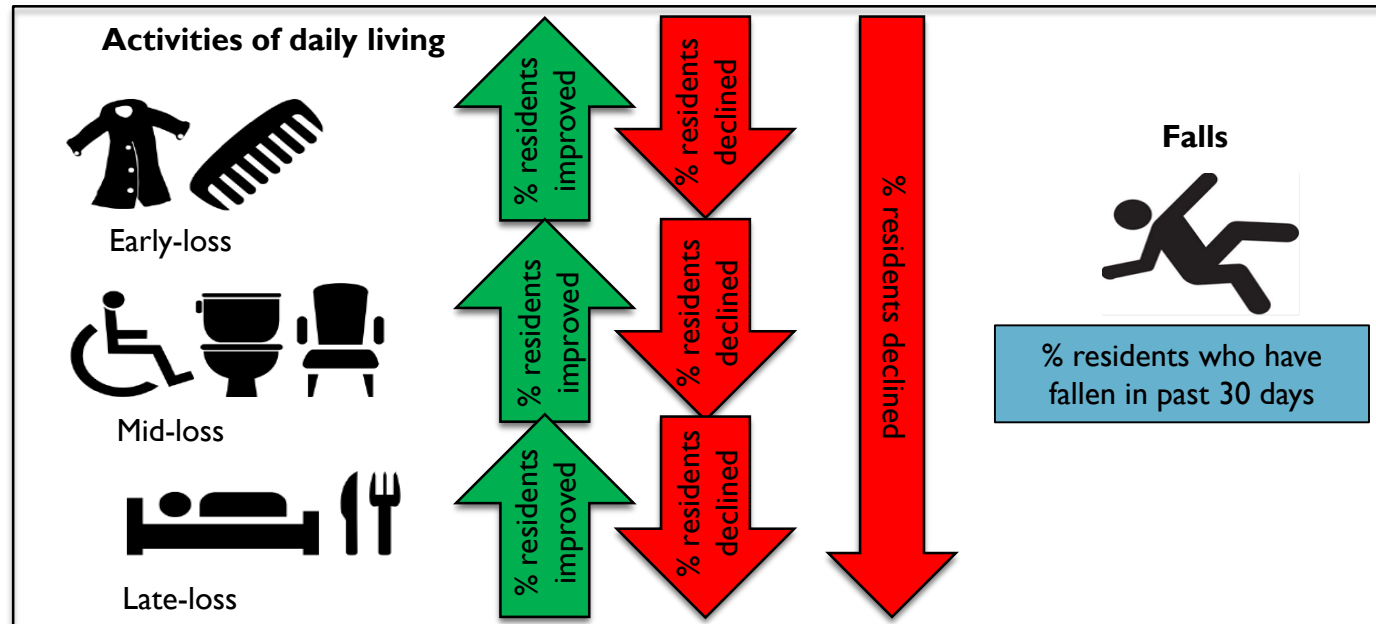
- A new policy for publicly funded physical therapy (PT) in long-term care (LTC) was put in place in Ontario in August 2013
- PT was removed from OHIP (fee for service billing)
- Now LTC homes receive a block of funds per bed per year to provide PT
- There are now strict eligibility criteria (e.g., must have a SMART goal)

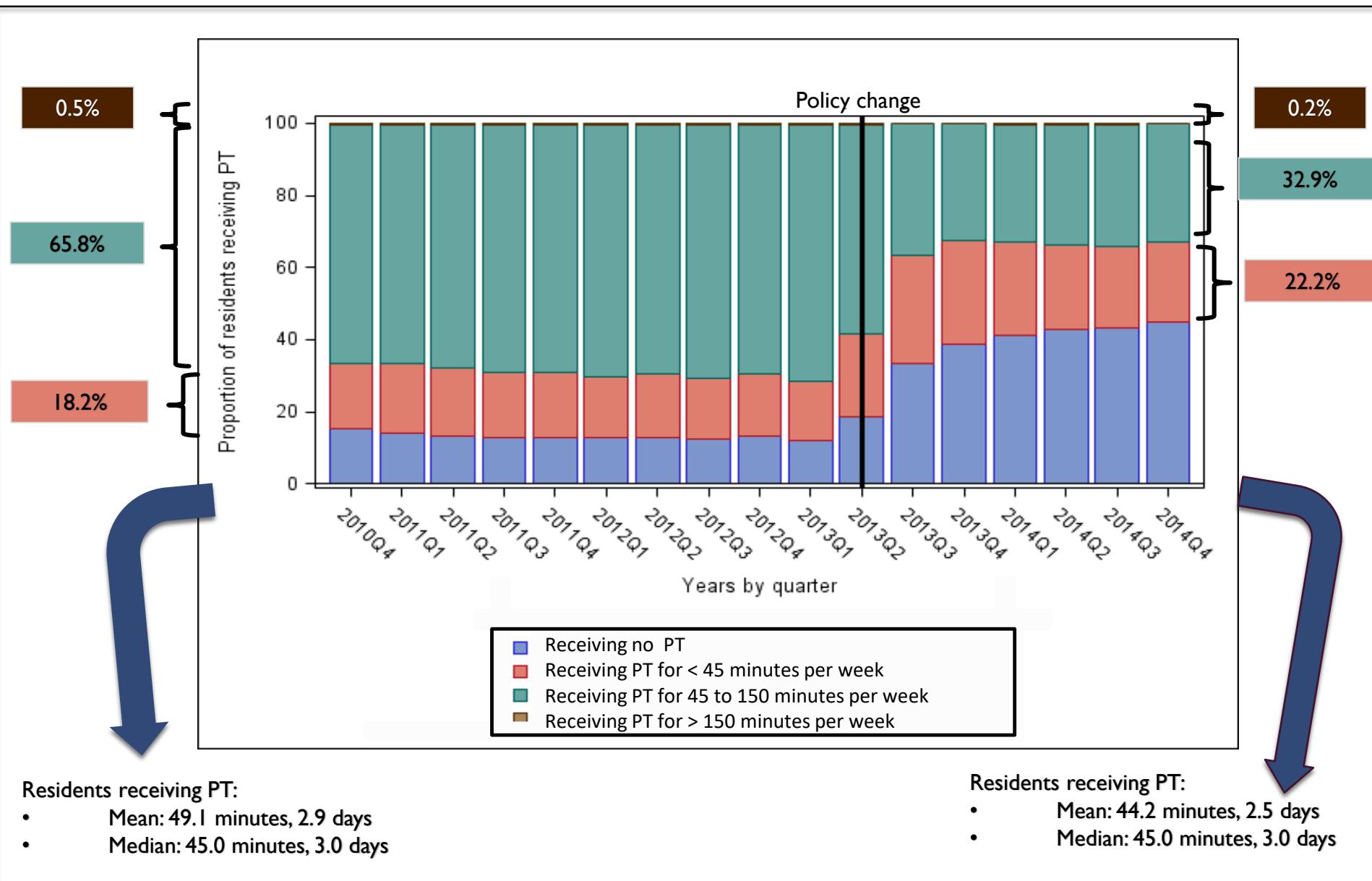
Objectives:

- 1) to describe and examine the proportion of residents receiving rehabilitation services, and facility-level activity of daily living (ADL) and falls quality indicators (QIs) before and after the policy change
- 2) to evaluate the effect of the policy change on facility-level ADL and falls QIs

METHODS

- retrospective, secondary data analysis
- Resident Assessment Instrument Minimum Data Set (RAI) for all LTC homes in Ontario, 2011-2015
- Linear mixed regression model
- 8 facility-level quality indicators were examined:





Fewer people are receiving PT after the policy change – but on average residents who receive PT, receive the same amount

PT and interaction with policy change	Quality indicators – proportion of residents with:							
	worse late loss ADLs	worse or remained dependent in mid loss ADLs	worse or remained dependent in early loss ADLs	worse ADL long form score	falls in the last 30 days	improved late loss ADLs	improved or remained independent in mid loss ADLs	improved or remained independent in early loss ADLs
Proportion of residents receiving:								
No PT						X		X
PT for < 45 minutes on < 3 days	✓		✓	✓		X		X
PT for 45-150 minutes on 3-5 days	✓					✓		✓
PT for > 150 minutes on > 5 days								

✓ denotes significant (p<0.01) association with improved performance on the quality indicator; X denotes significant (p<0.01) association with worse performance on the quality indicator
Note: models are adjusted for health region, facility size, income quintile, and rurality, and their interaction terms with the intervention

The policy change with improved performance in 5 ADL QIs for homes that provide more time intense PT

But, homes that now have a large proportion of residents who do not receive PT or receive time-limited PT perform worse of QIs measuring improvement of ADLs

Check out our publication in the Health Services Research Journal for more information:

McArthur C, Hirdes J, Chaurasia A, Berg K, Giangregorio L. (2018) Quality changes after implementation of an episode of care model with strict criteria for physical therapy in Ontario’s long-term care homes. *Health Services Research Journal*. DOI: 10.1111/1475-6773.13020