

“Transitions are Really Hard”: Dementia Caregiver Perspectives on Hospital to Skilled Nursing Facility Transitions

Blair P Golden MD MS¹, Nora Hutchinson MD MPhil², Julia Axelrod BA², Rebecca Sudore MD², Margaret Fang MD MPH², James D Harrison PhD²

¹ Department of Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison ² Department of Medicine, University of California-San Francisco

KEY TAKE-AWAY: Dementia caregivers feel inadequately prepared for hospital-to-skilled nursing facility transitions. interventions aimed at ensuring consistent access to rehabilitation may help promote goal-concordant care.

INTRODUCTION

- People living with dementia (PLWD) are frequently discharged to skilled nursing facility (SNF) settings after hospitalization
- Caregiver engagement is critical to optimizing care transitions for PLWD
- However, the perspectives of dementia caregivers on hospital-to-SNF transitions – which are critical to inform engagement strategies – are unexplored.
- **Objective:** To understand dementia caregiver experiences and perceptions of care during hospital-to-SNF transitions

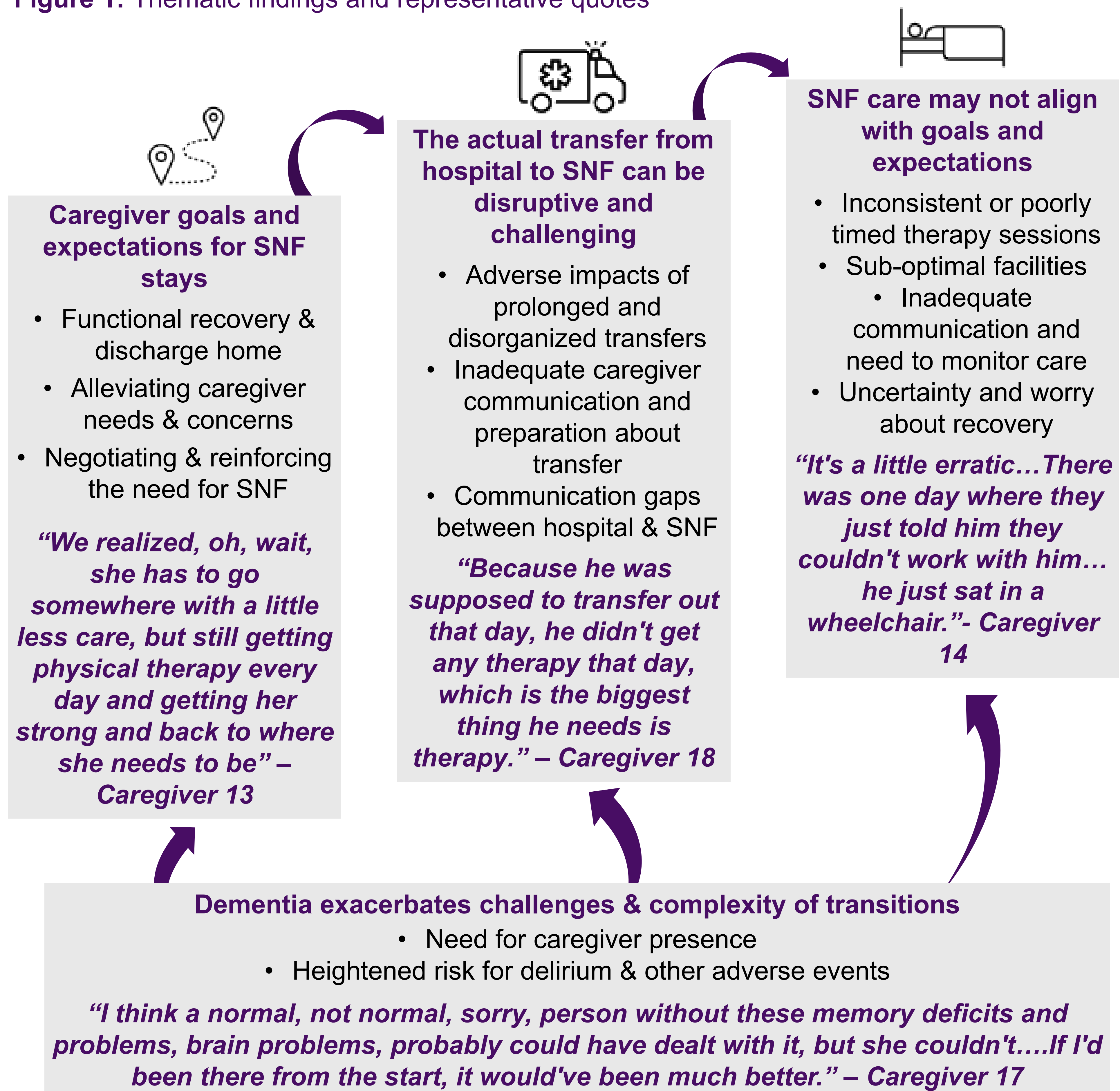
METHODS

- Qualitative study at an urban SNF
- Recruited caregivers to PLWD prospectively during SNF stays
- Performed in-depth, semi-structured interviews exploring perceptions of preparation for SNF care, move from hospital to SNF, and experiences with hospital and SNF care
- Data analyzed using thematic analysis with deductive and inductive coding

RESULTS

- Completed in-depth interviews with 19 caregivers
- Four themes identified in analysis (Figure 1)

Figure 1: Thematic findings and representative quotes



CONCLUSIONS

- Many caregivers felt inadequately prepared for hospital-to-SNF transitions
- Caregivers identified functional recovery as a goal of SNF stays, but perceptions of care did not always align with these goals
- Interventions directed at improving caregiver communication may help improve caregiver engagement and patient recovery experiences

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- Contact: Blair Golden (bpgolden@wisc.edu)

