Assisted Living By the Numbers

Research findings point to key trends contributing to complexity in growing assisted living market.

May 2014

Recognizing the growing complexity of senior healthcare and demographic shifts in an aging population, PointClickCare joined forces with McKnight's Long-Term Care News, a business news magazine serving the institutional long-term care field, to explore the key issues senior care professionals are preparing to face in 2014 and beyond. A nationwide survey of more than 8,000 senior care officials was conducted by McKnight's on behalf of PointClickCare.

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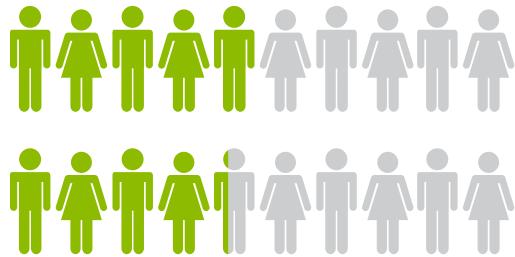
Higher Acuity is here to stay.

50% of assisted living residents have three or more chronic conditions while 42% have Alzheimer's or other dementia[1]

Specifically, the survey asked respondents in assisted living communities to identify their top priorities for 2014. Rising to the top: more than 66 per cent recognized a need to prepare for rising acuity levels, 44 per cent put the second issue at staffing and management of human resources and in third place, 43 per cent are focused on putting risk reduction programs in place.

"More than 87 per cent of respondents are seeing a substantial increase in resident acuity levels," said John O'Connor, Editorial Director for McKnight's Long-Term Care News. "That aligns with what we are hearing at industry events. The increase in caregiving needs is both a key trend and a major challenge for the assisted living field."

"It presents an interesting challenge for the administration," said Jayne Warwick, Director, Senior Clinical Product Consultant with PointClickCare. "Managing the complexity that comes with rising acuity will hinge on the ability of a Director or Administrator to ensure that literally all the information on any one resident is on the same page. They need it at their finger tips, with documentation and search capabilities. Information needs to be transferable not just from inside the community, but externally in the same fashion -- fast and secure. It is a 21st Century problem that cannot rely on a 20th Century solution such as paper documentation alone."

The impact of a rise in acuity within assisted living facilities was validated by findings from the joint survey -- the challenge becomes, where to begin?

58%

Indicated changing staffing requirements as crucial to accommodating this growing demand

44%

Recognize this new aspect as increasing their risks, like hospital readmissions

[1] National Survey of Residential Care Facilities. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. First time national assisted living data collection effort by the CDC/NCHS/ASPE http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsrcf.htm
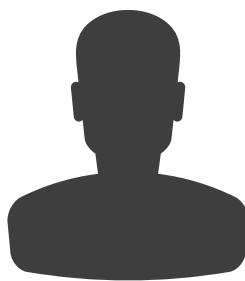
45%

feel they are not prepared for the rise in acuity.

So what does the rise in acuity and increased awareness of better medication management programs tell us?

Respondents to the survey say that as assisted living facilities adapt to these changes, that even though there is a recognition of a need for readiness to deal with the increasingly complex regulatory environment, 45 per cent feel they are not prepared.

"The pace of change has increased in this industry, " said McKnight's O'Connor. "Increasingly, I'm hearing from facilities and vendors about new solutions and improved caregiving practices that target the best possible care. Operators are clearly seeking fully integrated, connected solutions that can improve both care and the bottom line."

The Impact of Rising Acuity Levels on Assisted Living Organizations

58.13%	Changing Staffing Requirements
44.31%	Increased Risk (ie. hospital readmissions)
22.76%	Need for Different Technology
36.18%	Greater Focus on Cost Control
9.35%	No Change
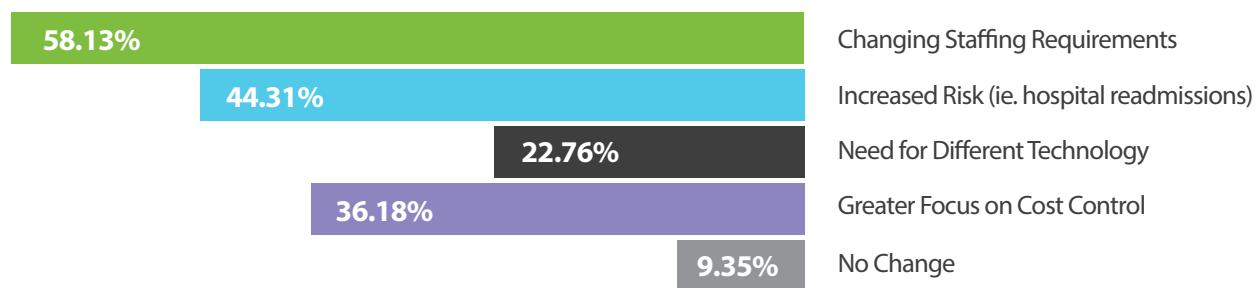
In Summary

There is a real need for integrated, connected technologies to manage all points of care--and it's the conclusion many successful facilities are reaching. It is not only a philosophical approach but also a practical one. For more information on how you can meet some of these challenges head on, visit PointClickCare at **www.pointclickcare.com**.

About PointClickCare

PointClickCare helps healthcare providers meet the challenges of senior care by enabling them to achieve the business results that matter – enriching the lives of their residents, improving financial and operational health, and mitigating risk. PointClickCare's cloud-based software platform takes a person-centered approach to managing senior care, connecting healthcare providers across the senior care continuum with easy to use, regulatory compliant solutions for improved resident outcomes, enhanced financial performance, and staff optimization. Over 9,000 skilled nursing and senior living facilities use PointClickCare today, making it the North American healthcare IT market leader for the senior care industry. For more information on PointClickCare's ONC certified software solutions, please visit **www.pointclickcare.com**.

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PointClickCare Version 3.7 is now compliant with the ONC 2014 Edition criteria and was certified as an EHR Module on October 23, 2013 by the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT®).

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