PCC Bursary Abstract – No 11687 – Helen Kerr

A realist literature review of transition to adult services by young people with life-limiting conditions in Ireland.

Background
As a result of improvements in care and treatment more young people with life-limiting conditions are now living beyond childhood, meaning they must make the transition from children’s to adult services. The loss of long-standing relationships with providers of children’s services combines with poor co-ordination of services to make this a daunting prospect for young people and their families. However, there is little evidence on transition services for young people with life limiting conditions, with few models of good practice in the literature.

Aims
The purpose of this review was to determine the factors that promote or hinder the transition to adult services for young people with life limiting conditions, and identify gaps to be addressed.

Methods
A comprehensive search of the literature was undertaken using key terms, in the following databases; MEDLINE and the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 314 articles were sourced and inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied to highlight the most relevant literature.

Results
Studies were reviewed using a realist review approach and three themes emerged. Barriers and facilitators to the transition process were identified associated with:
1. The patient
2. Parents/carers
3. The organisation.

Conclusion
It is unclear from the literature what the specific factors are that promote or hinder the transition process for young people with life limiting conditions, therefore, research is required to identify these factors in Ireland.

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