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# Improving hospital discharge arrangements for people who are homeless: A realist synthesis of the intermediate care literature

Cornes, M

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**Figure 2: Working definition of intermediate care used for screening sources of evidence (Pearson et al., 2015)**

**Purpose:** Supports transition (e.g. hospital to home); occurs at a critical point (i.e. on the cusp of the shift from independence to dependence, at the point of acquisition of a chronic illness or disability, or at the intersection of illness and frailty)

**Functions:** A bridge between (i) locations; (ii) health or social care sectors (or within these sectors); (iii) health states. Views people holistically, as individuals in a social setting . Time-limited (e.g. 72 hours; 2 weeks; 6 weeks)

**Structure:** Designs and embeds new routes through services (which enhance sensitivity to needs and wishes of service users)

**Content:** Treatment or therapy (to increase strength, confidence and/or functional abilities); Psychological, practical and social support; Support/training to develop skills and strategies