

Summary of Results

This study has established a set of research priorities for older people requiring long term care in the UK (Table 1). The themes most highly rated are person-centred care, staffing levels, end of life care, and the care home environment. The lowest ranked priorities were those that related to mobility, service delivery, and nutrition and hydration. The long list of research questions identified, and the interim order of the top 30 questions are found at the end of the report ([Appendix 1](#) and [Appendix 2](#)).

Table 1 Final Top 15 Ranked Priorities

Rank	RQ ID	Research Question (RQ)
1	Person2	How can person-centred care be provided in care homes appropriate to the person's individualised needs?
2	Person1	How can dignity be enhanced for residents in care home settings?
=3	Staff5	What are appropriate staffing levels in relation to the number of residents in care homes and their relative care needs?
=3	Staff4	What are the attitudes of inexperienced care home staff towards providing person-centred care, and can training and support improve awareness of the need for person-centred care?
5	Staff1	What are the essential elements required when training carers working with older people in care homes?
6	End2	How can early and appropriate discussion with older people in care home about end of life care be supported?
7	Staff2	How can recruitment of carers with essential qualities such as compassion and empathy be improved by care homes?
8	Person3	How can best interest decisions made for care home residents with dementia be properly documented in care plans?
9	Env1	How can care homes be made to feel more like a home ?
10	Comm3	What is the public and media perception of care homes compared with other care settings, and what is the impact on care home staff attitudes?
11	Oral2	What is the impact of levels of oral hygiene on the nutritional status of older people living in care homes?
12	End1	How can families and healthcare professionals contribute to improving end of life care for older people in care homes?
13	Activity1	What activities can improve the quality of life for care home residents with impaired vision or hearing ?
14	Activity3	How can the provision of visual aids enhance the quality of life of people with end stage dementia?
15	Staff8	Can education strategies improve care home staff attitudes towards use of power and authority in their relationship with older people with cognitive impairments?