



International Association for the
Study of Insurance Economics

Études et Dossiers

Extract from

Études et Dossiers No. 348

**5th Geneva Association Health & Ageing
Conference**

**Long Term Care –
Risk Profiles, Determinants and Financing**

6-7 November 2008
London

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November 2008

**Working Paper Series of
The Geneva Association**

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Long Term Care: Decisions and Dilemmas for Individuals and Their Families

Gillian Dalley



Dilemmas and decisions

- **Personal**
What does it mean for individuals and their families
- **Policy and politics of LTC**
Antipathy to residential care
Means testing social care
Regulation
- **Practical**
Eligibility and availability
Funding maze
Quality



Personal issues

Individuals

- When is the right time?
- Planning ahead
- Crisis response
- Mental capacity
- Individual or family decision?



Personal issues (cont.)

Families

- Guilt – ‘I promised to look after you’
- Fear – ‘I’ve heard such bad things about care homes’
- Worry – ‘do they know what he likes; will he be happy there’
- Relief – ‘Thank goodness, she’s being looked after’
- Concern – ‘it’s unfair we have to pay so much’



Policy & politics of LTC

- Official antipathy to residential care
 - Effect of community care policies
 - Gatekeeping to restrict entry
 - Recent Green paper – ‘right not to go into care’
- Means testing
 - Development of two tier access – LA supported and self funders
- Regulation
 - Raising standards?
 - Giving confidence to residents and relatives



Practical issues

- Eligibility and availability
 - Tightening of councils’ eligibility criteria
 - care of last resort
 - high levels of dependency
 - impact on community life of a home
 - Patchiness of provision
 - geographical variation
 - tailored to individual needs?
 - Choice?



Practical issues (cont.)

- The funding maze
 - Dearth of advice and information

 - Needs assessment/financial assessment
Problems of self funders

 - Pressure on families
Top ups, deferred loans, deprivation of assets



Practical issues (cont.)

- Quality
 - Variable quality
 - Attitudes to relatives
 - Making complaints
 - Role of the regulator- a decade of change



Conclusions

- Time of crisis, no chance for reasoned decisions
- Process is bewildering
- Too little and advice, information and guidance
- Decisions and dilemmas remain a problem

END