

Using the Complexity Adaptive System framework to guide hospice admissions, developing a supportive assessment tool

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Introduction

Hospice admissions, from referral to evaluation, require an in-depth understanding of patient care needs, which is often insufficient in practice. The Complex Adaptive Systems (CAS) provides a framework that contains patient, social, team domains, along with environmental factors.

Aim

To develop an instrument using CAS to unravel patient care needs that can be used to guide hospice admissions from referral to evaluation.

Method

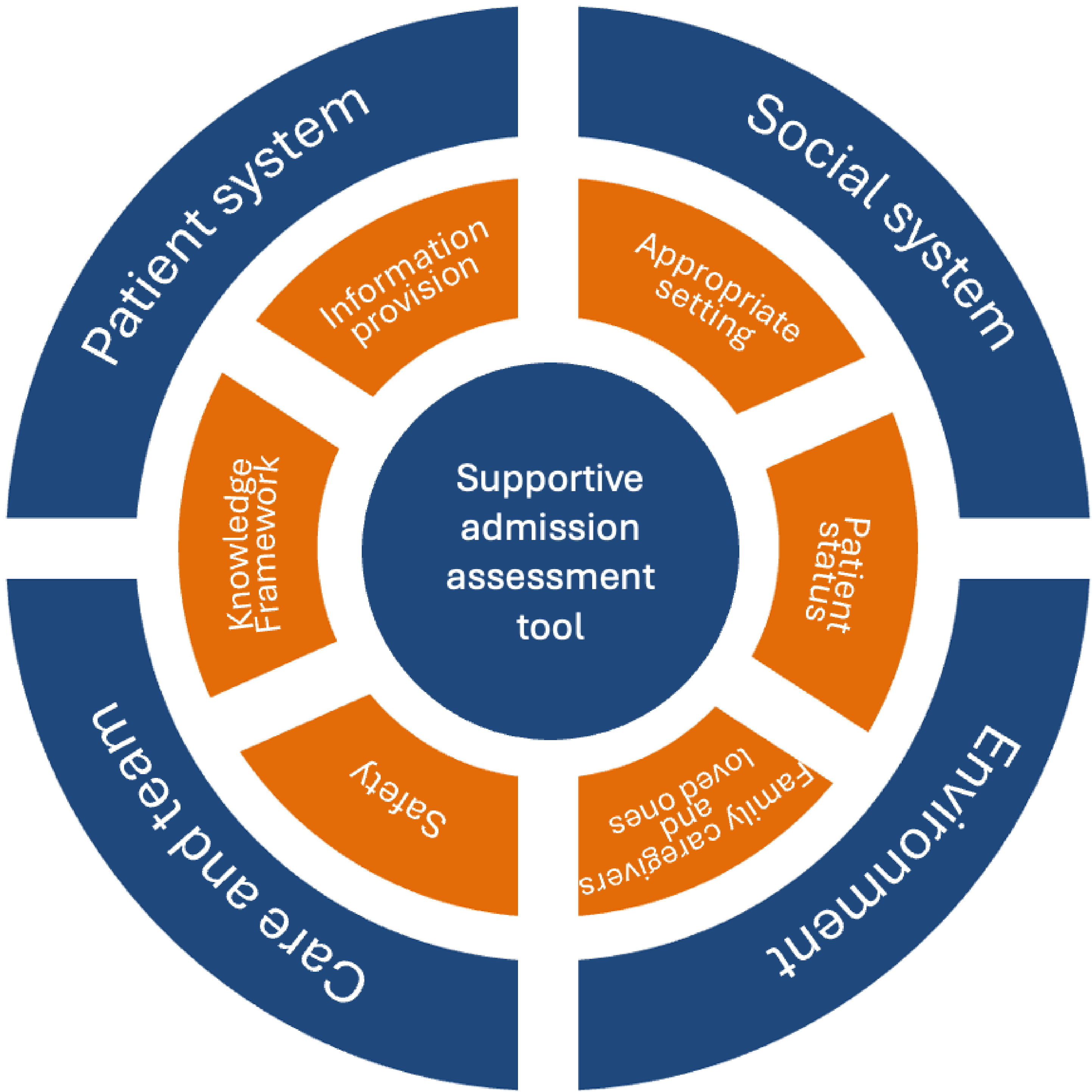
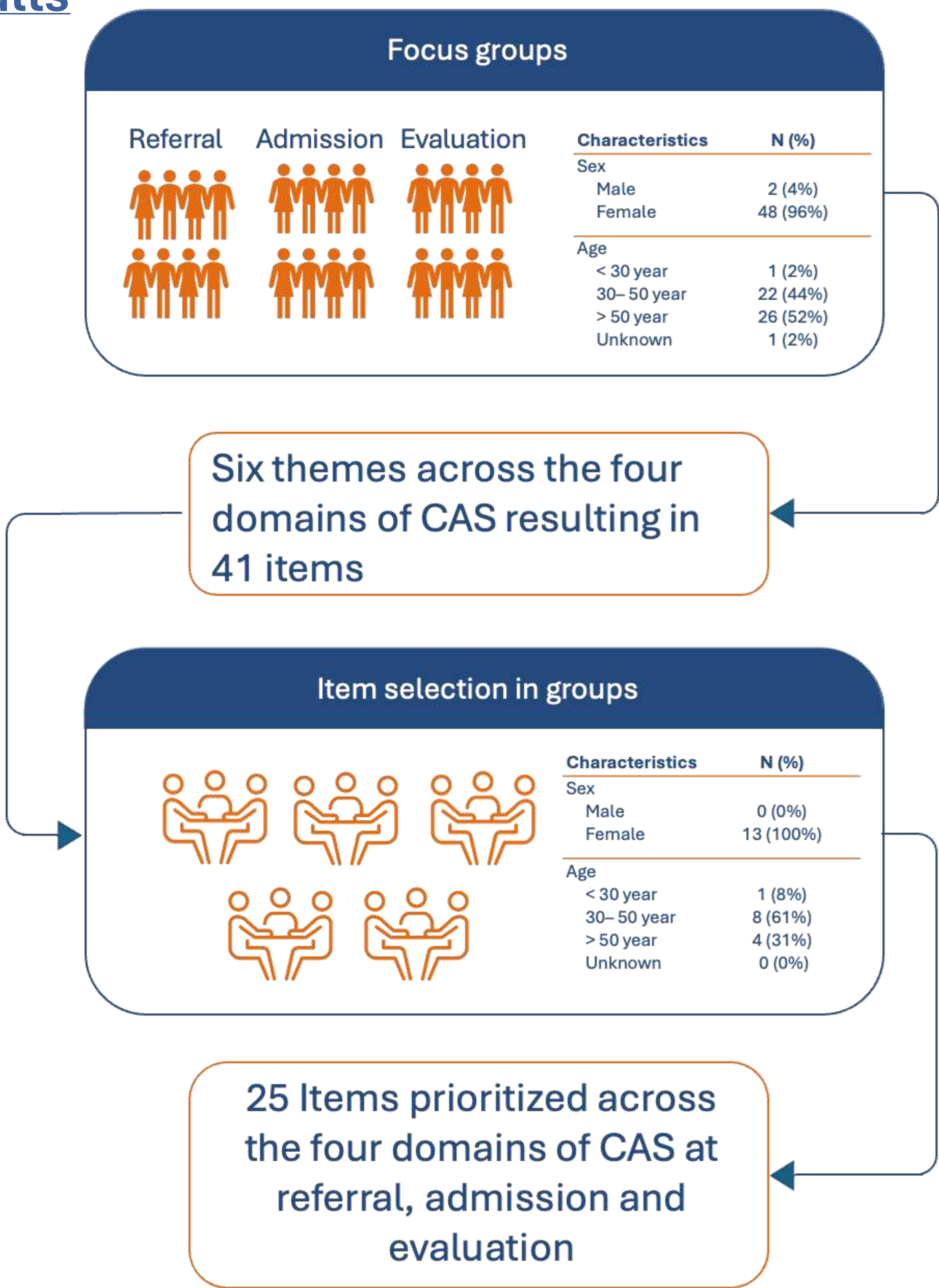
- A two-phase qualitative multi-method approach was employed:
1. Six focus groups (n=50) were conducted to identify elements essential for understanding patient care needs that are missing from standard hospice assessments, with two groups for each stage (referral, admission, and evaluation). A semi-structured interview guide based on the CAS domains was used, and thematic analysis was employed to identify key themes and potential instrument items.
 2. A Delphi technique (n=13) was used to engage participants to select key items within each CAS domain and stage. Content analyses identified the final selections.

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The admission tool guides assessments and communication throughout the admission process and supports appropriate hospice care.

Results



Conclusion

Using CAS resulted in items for an instrument to guide hospice admissions and support clinicians in evaluating in-depth patient care needs. An initial list of items has been created and, combined with information gathered from standard hospice assessments, will be used as a first version and developed in an action research process to ensure appropriate care at the right time and place.