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Accelerometer and Global Positioning System measurement of recovery of community ambulation across the first six months following stroke: an exploratory prospective study

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Running Head: Community ambulation after stroke

**Accelerometer and Global Positioning System measurement of recovery of community ambulation across the first six months following stroke: an exploratory prospective study**

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- 1 **Accelerometer and Global Positioning System measurement**
- 2 **of recovery of community ambulation across the first six**
- 3 **months following stroke: an exploratory prospective study**
- 4

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5 **Abstract**

6 **Objectives:** To characterise community ambulation and determine if it changes  
7 across the first six months following discharge from hospital after stroke.

8 **Design:** Prospective, observational study.

9 **Setting:** Community setting, Brisbane, Australia.

10 **Participants:** 34 subacute stroke survivors with no cognitive impairment or  
11 conditions limiting mobility prior to stroke.

12 **Interventions:** Nil

13 **Main outcome measures:** Community ambulation was measured by an  
14 accelerometer, Global Positioning System and activity diary. Measures included:  
15 volume (step count; time spent in the community, lying/sitting, standing and  
16 walking), frequency (number of community trips; number of and time in short,  
17 medium, long duration bouts) and intensity (number of and time at low, moderate,  
18 high intensity bouts) and trip type at one, three and six months following hospital  
19 discharge.

20 **Results:** At one-month, participants took on average one trip per day in the  
21 community, lasting  $137 \pm 113$  minutes. Overall, most community ambulation was  
22 spread across long duration bouts ( $>300$  steps) lasting 11.3 to 14.1 minutes/day and  
23 moderate intensity bouts (30-80 steps/minute). There was no change in community  
24 ambulation trip type ( $p < 0.302$ ) or ambulation characteristics over time except for a  
25 greater number of and time spent in long ambulation bouts at six-months only ( $p <$   
26  $0.027$ ).

27 **Conclusions:** Total volume and intensity of community ambulation did not change  
28 over the first six-months post-discharge after stroke. However, at six months,  
29 survivors spent more time in long duration ambulation bouts. Review of stroke

30 survivors at six-months following hospital discharge is suggested, as this is when  
31 changes in community ambulation may first be observed.

32

33

34 **Keywords:** Stroke, Community ambulation, GPS, accelerometer, activity diary

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35 **List of abbreviations**

36

37 GPS Global Positioning Systems

38 10MTW Timed 10metre walk (comfortable pace)

39 6MWT 6-minute walk test

40 SD Standard Deviation

41 Returning to community ambulation, that is, independent ambulation outside the home and  
42 yard, is regularly reported as a key goal by a majority of stroke survivors<sup>1</sup>. However despite  
43 its importance, individuals with chronic stroke complete fewer community trips and walking  
44 related activities compared to healthy adults<sup>2</sup>. Further, high scores on clinical measures of  
45 gait and function do not predict successful community ambulation outcomes after stroke<sup>1,2</sup>.  
46 As community ambulation is a vital precursor to successful community re-integration<sup>3</sup>,  
47 limitation in this outcome could contribute to further disability and poor health outcomes<sup>1,4-6</sup>.

48

49 To date, community ambulation after stroke has been measured through self-report diaries  
50 and questionnaires<sup>1,2,7</sup>. However, these methods are limited by accurate recall<sup>8</sup>, and do not  
51 provide objective measures of community ambulation. Recently, devices including  
52 accelerometers<sup>9</sup> and global positioning systems<sup>10,11</sup> have shown potential for measurement of  
53 community ambulation after stroke<sup>12</sup>. Accelerometers have been used to measure daily  
54 walking activity after stroke, with increases in daily step count reported in the first three  
55 months after hospital discharge<sup>13-15</sup>. How much of this occurs in the community is unknown.  
56 Global positioning systems (GPS) have been used in one case study of a stroke survivor, to  
57 investigate life space and components of outdoor mobility<sup>11</sup>. In combination, accelerometers  
58 and GPS may allow for isolation of community ambulation measures from daily walking  
59 activity<sup>12</sup>.

60

61 Longitudinal measurement of community ambulation across the subacute phase of stroke is  
62 important, as this period is often associated with changes in post-stroke impairments<sup>16</sup>,  
63 activity limitations<sup>16-18</sup> and personal factors<sup>19,20</sup>. These changes may also contribute to  
64 improvements in ambulation characteristics and behaviours within the community, such as  
65 trip duration and frequency, steps taken, purpose of trips, and choices around interaction with  
66 the physical environments<sup>1,2,21,22</sup>. Understanding recovery across this phase may assist in  
67 determining why chronic stroke survivors demonstrate poor community ambulation  
68 outcomes<sup>1,2,7</sup>. However, accurate, objective measurement across the subacute phase post-  
69 stroke is required.

70

71 Thus this study aimed to characterise community ambulation using a combination of  
72 accelerometers, GPS devices and self-report activity diaries and determine if the  
73 characteristics and purpose of community ambulation changes across one, three and six  
74 months following hospital discharge after stroke. It was hypothesised that stroke survivors  
75 would increase levels of community ambulation and engage in more social and recreational  
76 community ambulation over time.

77

## 78 **Methods**

79

80 This study followed a prospective longitudinal observational design. Institutional ethical  
81 approval was obtained and all participants provided written informed consent. This study  
82 was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

83

## 84 **Participants**



85

86 A sample of 42 people who had been diagnosed with stroke was recruited from acute stroke  
87 and rehabilitation units of a tertiary referral hospital in Brisbane, Australia. Participants were  
88 included if they (1) presented with a stroke within the past 4 months, (2) were aged > 18  
89 years and (3) were discharged into the community to live alone or with a carer or spouse.  
90 Individuals were excluded if they: (1) had a diagnosis of another neurological condition (e.g.  
91 Parkinson's disease) or co-morbidities that limited ambulation prior to stroke (2) had any  
92 unstable medical condition, (3) had chest pain, heart attacks, angioplasty or heart surgery in  
93 the previous three months, (4) unable to walk indoors for 10m, (5) were discharged to a  
94 residential aged care facility, (6) had moderate to severe expressive or receptive  
95 communication difficulties or (7) scored < 24/30 on the Mini Mental State Examination<sup>23</sup>.

96

### 97 **Procedures**

98

99 Participants attended four assessments: at discharge from hospital, and at one, three and six  
100 months following hospital discharge. At the discharge assessment, general clinical  
101 information, demographics and measures of gait and function (Modified Rankin Scale, Motor  
102 Assessment Scale, Timed 10 metre walk test, and 6 minute walk test) were collected.

103

104 At each follow-up assessment, participants were fitted with an accelerometer, the  
105 ActivPAL<sup>TM</sup>, and provided with a Garmin GPS device and activity diary to measure usual  
106 community ambulation over four days<sup>8</sup>. The ActivPAL<sup>TM</sup> was worn continuously over the  
107 measurement period. The GPS was switched on by the participant at the commencement of  
108 any community trip, defined as any trip 'outside the home and yard'<sup>1</sup>, and switched off when

109 participants returned home. In addition, participants documented details of each community  
110 trip via an activity diary.

111

112 The ActivPAL<sup>TMa</sup> is a uniaxial accelerometer, which records measures at 15 second epochs,  
113 and deemed valid and reliable for community ambulation measurement after stroke<sup>12</sup>. The  
114 ActivPAL<sup>TM</sup> was encased in a waterproof covering and affixed to the skin in the middle of  
115 the front thigh with a low irritant sticker (hypafix). Measures collected from the device  
116 included step counts and activity duration.

117

118 The Garmin Forerunner 910XT<sup>b</sup> is a GPS enabled sports watch with a battery life of up to 20  
119 hours and recording frequency of 2.4 GHz. The Garmin GPS operating system was  
120 previously deemed valid and reliable for location and duration of trips in a sample of chronic  
121 stroke survivors<sup>12</sup>. Participants wore the device on the wrist of their affected arm, to ensure  
122 easy manipulation of the device. Data and graphs obtained from the Garminconnect website  
123 ([www.garminconnect.com.au](http://www.garminconnect.com.au)) provided overall trip summaries which were used to identify  
124 location and time spent out of the home and yard.

125

126 Participants completed an activity diary that detailed trip time, location, estimated time spent  
127 walking, transport choice, purpose of community trips and any issues encountered during  
128 trips. The activity diary was used during GPS and accelerometer data cleaning and analysis  
129 and to obtain purpose of trips into the community.

130

### 131 **Outcome Measures**

132

133 An 'ambulation bout' (defined as a 15-second epoch with  $\geq 2$  steps)<sup>15,24</sup> was used to derive

134 measures of volume, frequency and intensity based on definitions previously used in  
135 stroke<sup>9,15</sup>. *Volume* of community ambulation was characterised by measures of total number  
136 of steps and time in minutes spent out in the community; as well as time spent sitting/lying,  
137 standing, walking and upright in the community per day. *Frequency* of community  
138 ambulation was characterised by measures of total number of community trips<sup>2</sup> and  
139 ambulation bouts per day, as well as number of and total time in minutes taken at each  
140 ambulation bout duration per day<sup>9</sup>. Bout duration was defined as – short: < 40 steps;  
141 medium: 41-300 steps; and long: > 300 steps<sup>9</sup>. *Intensity* of community ambulation was  
142 determined based on the number of and total time in minutes spent at each ambulation bout  
143 intensity per day<sup>15</sup>. Bout intensity was defined as – low: a cadence of < 30 steps/minute;  
144 moderate: a cadence of 30-80 steps/minute; and high: a cadence of > 80 steps/minute<sup>15</sup>.  
145  
146 *Trip purpose* was defined based on the purpose reported by the participant for each  
147 community trip. Purpose of trips was categorized according to the participation domain of the  
148 Stroke Impact Scale (version 3.0)<sup>3</sup> and included: 1) work, 2) social, 3) recreation, 4) essential  
149 errands and roles and 5) religious and spiritual. Multipurpose trips were categorized based on  
150 main purpose of the community trip confirmed by participants, diaries and GPS maps.

## 152 **Data Analysis**

153  
154 Measures of community ambulation were obtained by analysing subsets of ActivPAL<sup>TM</sup> data  
155 using start and stop times and location data from the GPS and activity diary. A customised  
156 MATLAB<sup>c</sup> program was used to obtain measures. Data were screened for normality. All  
157 measures of community ambulation were positively skewed, and were thus square root  
158 transformed<sup>25</sup>.

159

160 Means, standard deviation and range for all raw measures of volume, frequency and intensity  
161 were calculated to characterise community ambulation at one, three and six months following  
162 hospital discharge. Linear mixed effects modelling (using transformed data), adjusted for  
163 age<sup>26</sup> and discharge gait speed<sup>1,27</sup>, was used to test for change in community ambulation  
164 across the three time points.

165

166 Proportion of trips taken, total time in the community and total steps in the community for  
167 each trip purpose across the three time points was calculated. Cross-tabulation and Kruskal-  
168 wallis testing were used to check for change in number of community trips by trip purpose.  
169 Significance was set for  $p < 0.05$ . SPSS 21.0<sup>d</sup> was used for all statistical calculations.

170

## 171 **Results**

172

### 173 **Participants**

174

175 Of 225 stroke survivors screened prior to hospital discharge, 42 were recruited. From  
176 recruitment at hospital discharge to one month, five participants were lost to follow-up; one  
177 participant refused to wear devices and two participants had insufficient GPS data at all three  
178 follow-up time points. Data from a total of 34 participants were included in the final analysis.  
179 See Figure 1 for flow of participants through the study.

180

181

*Insert Figure 1*

182

183 Table 1 details the sample characteristics at hospital discharge. Discharge gait speed and  
184 endurance indicated that twenty (60%) participants had met both gait speed and endurance  
185 criteria and twenty-four (71%) participants had met gait speed criteria for independent  
186 community ambulation<sup>28</sup>.

187

188

*Insert Table 1*

189

### 190 **Characteristics of community ambulation**

191

192 Participants recorded a total of 325 community trips across the three time points. Of all  
193 community trips, 14% were missing GPS/diary data, and 6% had no purpose reported by  
194 participants across all time points. All participants ambulated within the community at least  
195 once across the four-day measurement period except for one participant at one month (see  
196 Figure 2). Approximately 30-40% of stroke survivors ambulated within their community  
197 every day at all time points (see Figure 2).

198

199

*Insert Figure 2*

200

201 Volume, frequency and intensity of daily community ambulation across one, three and six  
202 months are reported in Table 2. Participants took around 1700 to 2300 steps (range 0-10,495  
203 steps) over on average, 2-3 hours per day in the community across all time points. Most time  
204 was spent in sitting positions (1-2 hours per day), with 20-25 minutes (range 0-120 minutes)  
205 spent walking in the community per day (see Table 2).

206

207 Participants took on average, one trip into the community per day. Community ambulation  
208 was spread across a total of 23 to 28 bouts (range 0-78 bouts) each day across one, three and  
209 six months. Short ambulation bouts (< 40 steps) were most common at all time points (see  
210 Table 2). However, most time was spent in long ambulation bouts (>300 steps) at one and six  
211 months and in medium ambulation bouts (40-300 steps) at three months (see Table 2).

212

213 Most ambulation bouts and time spent walking in the community were spent at moderate  
214 intensity levels (see Table 2). Least time was spent walking in the community at low intensity  
215 levels (< 30 steps/minute), despite similar numbers of ambulation bouts per day in moderate  
216 intensity ambulation. Only 1-2 bouts of community walking per day were of high intensity  
217 (>80 steps/minute) at all time points, with stroke survivors spending 7.8 to 13.2 minutes per  
218 day walking at a high intensity within their community.

219

220 *Insert Table 2*

221

222 Figure 3 displays the proportion of trips taken for each trip purpose. Most trips and time spent  
223 in the community were associated with essential roles and errands at all time points (see  
224 Figures 3 and 4a). While most steps were taken for essential errands at one month, by three  
225 months most steps were taken during recreational activities (see Figure 4b). Number of trips  
226 and time spent out in the community for the purpose of work increased at six months only.  
227 Stroke survivors demonstrated a decreased proportion of trips, time and steps in social trips  
228 over time. There was minimal change in the trips for the purpose of religious and spiritual  
229 practices.

230

231

*Insert Figure 3*

232

233

*Insert Figure 4*

234

235

**Changes in community ambulation across one, three and six months**

236

237

Changes in community ambulation over the three time points, adjusted for age and discharge

238

gait speed, are presented in Table 3. Time had a significant effect on number of and time

239

spent in long duration ambulation bouts only ( $p < 0.028$ ) (see Table 3). There were no

240

significant changes in community ambulation over time except for an increase in the number

241

of and time spent in long ambulation bouts at six months following hospital discharge.

242

However, there was a trend towards an increase in total time spent in medium duration

243

ambulation bouts over the six months. The number of community trips for each trip purpose

244

did not change over the six months ( $p > 0.302$ ).

245

246

*Insert Table 3*

247

248

**Discussion**

249

250

This study is the first to prospectively characterise community ambulation across the

251

subacute phase of stroke using a combination of tools. Stroke survivors who could walk at

252

hospital discharge did not demonstrate any change in community ambulation until six months

253

after returning home. At this time point, stroke survivors increased the number of and time

254

spent in long duration ambulation bouts, with no other change in characteristics of

255

community ambulation. Stroke survivors most often accessed their community to complete

256 essential errands and in contrast to the study hypothesis, did not engage in more social and  
257 recreational community ambulation over time.

258

259 Contrary to our hypothesis, the current sample had limited improvement in community  
260 ambulation over the first six months after hospital discharge. This was despite most survivors  
261 meeting criteria for independence with community ambulation<sup>1,28</sup>, half the sample being  
262 referred to community-based therapy after hospital discharge and half the sample having  
263 carer support<sup>29</sup>. Further, functional improvements are anticipated across this stage<sup>16,17</sup>. One  
264 reason for this could be that the sample had already returned to pre-stroke community  
265 ambulation by one month post discharge<sup>28</sup>. However this seems unlikely, as the number of  
266 community trips measured at one month in the current study were lower than that reported in  
267 studies of healthy older adults<sup>2,22</sup>, who on average take 1.5<sup>22</sup> to 1.8<sup>2</sup> trips per day. Further, a  
268 study of survivors more than 3 years post-stroke who had a similar number of community  
269 trips per day as the current study, demonstrated that stroke survivors had significantly fewer  
270 community trips compared to healthy controls. Thus, it is likely that the current sample had  
271 decreased community ambulation at all three time points.

272

273 It is likely that a combination of factors across various domains of the International  
274 Classification of Function, Disability and Health (ICF) contribute to the recovery of  
275 community ambulation after stroke<sup>30</sup>. For example, in people with chronic stroke, mood  
276 disorders<sup>30</sup>, impaired executive function<sup>31</sup>, challenging physical environments<sup>21</sup>, lack of carer  
277 support<sup>32</sup>, or poor self-efficacy<sup>33</sup> are related to reduced self-reported community  
278 reintegration, and thus may also affect community ambulation outcomes. Future studies  
279 should explore the relationship between factors across all domains of the ICF with  
280 community ambulation in people with stroke.



281

282 Community ambulation may recover differently, and over a different timeframe to clinic-  
283 based measures of function<sup>16,17</sup> and free-living activity after stroke<sup>14,15</sup>. A recent study  
284 proposed that recovery of community re-integration after stroke, and thus community  
285 ambulation, may be reliant upon successful transition between a series of goals, including  
286 gaining physical function, establishing independence, adjusting expectations and physical  
287 capacity to engage in meaningful roles<sup>34</sup>. This process may take months to over a year to  
288 adjust and manage expectations around a return to activities, roles and responsibilities<sup>34</sup>. In  
289 light of this, and the observed change in characteristics of community ambulation at six  
290 months in the current study, community ambulation recovery may only begin after six  
291 months following hospital discharge post-stroke. Future studies of community ambulation  
292 after stroke should consider a longer follow-up period (e.g. > 6 months), and qualitative  
293 methods exploring how community ambulation recovers after hospital discharge.

294

295 In the current study, the most common purpose for community ambulation at all time points  
296 was to engage in 'essential roles and errands' such as spousal and parental duties, shopping,  
297 and medical appointments. Essential roles and errands are also the most common purpose for  
298 community trips in groups with mobility limitations<sup>10,35</sup>, including survivors with chronic  
299 stroke<sup>7</sup>. While healthy older adults similarly make trips into the community to visit shopping  
300 centres<sup>1,36</sup>, they also often make trips for social and recreational activities (35-80% of  
301 trips)<sup>1,36</sup>. In contrast, social and recreational community trips made up only 25-35% of all  
302 trips in the current study. Thus, stroke survivors may restrict community-based social or  
303 recreational engagement early after hospital discharge.

304

305 Interestingly, in the current study, most steps were taken during recreational community trips  
306 at three and six months. Thus, assistance in increasing engagement in these trip types may be  
307 useful in improving overall community ambulation. Increasing ambulation within community  
308 environments may increase the proportion of daily ambulation that occurs over long bouts  
309 and moderate to high intensities, as distance and speed requirements are often higher for  
310 community environments than for household-based ambulation<sup>1,28,37,38</sup>. Even in the current  
311 study, a high proportion of ambulation occurred across long duration bouts and moderate to  
312 high intensities – ambulation characteristics associated with health benefits<sup>39</sup>. Thus,  
313 encouraging return to recreational activities should be considered during future management  
314 of stroke.

315

#### 316 *Study Limitations*

317

318 One limitation of the current study is the small study sample. Further, findings are limited to  
319 those able to walk at hospital discharge. Another limitation concerns the use of chosen  
320 devices. While devices selected demonstrated potential for measurement of community  
321 ambulation over four days, GPS requires stroke survivors to start and stop recordings and  
322 charge the device daily, which could result in variable engagement with the device over  
323 multiple days. In addition, while the accuracy of accelerometers at slow gait speeds has been  
324 queried<sup>40</sup>, the ActivPAL<sup>TM</sup> demonstrated good agreement with direct observation of steps at  
325 gait speeds below 0.42m/s in people with stroke<sup>12</sup>. Only two participants in the current  
326 sample walked at gait speeds <0.42m/s, thus this is unlikely to have impacted study findings.  
327 However, rapid advances in GPS technology and wearable devices have been made recently.  
328 In future, devices that can measure location over 24 hour periods, are accurate at slower  
329 speeds, have a long battery life, simple user interface, are unobtrusive and require little user

330 input would be ideal for community ambulation measurement after stroke if determined  
331 reliable and accurate in this population.

332

### 333 **Conclusions**

334

335 Stroke survivors access their community regularly following hospital discharge. Changes in  
336 community ambulation across the first six months after hospital discharge are only observed  
337 at six months, through an increased number of and time spent in long duration ambulation  
338 bouts. Total volume and intensity of community ambulation after stroke, and purpose of  
339 community trips remains unchanged over the first six months following hospital discharge. It  
340 would be beneficial to consider follow-up of stroke survivors at six months after hospital  
341 discharge, as change in community ambulation may only be first observed at this time point.

342 **Suppliers**343 <sup>a</sup> ActivPAL™

344 PAL Technologies Ltd©

345 50 Richmond Street

346 Glasgow G1 1XP

347 Scotland, UK

348

349 <sup>b</sup> Garmin Forerunner 910XT

350 Garmin Ltd.

351 Garmin Australasia

352 30 Clay Place

353 Eastern Creek, NSW 2766

354

355 <sup>c</sup> MATLAB

356 Mathworks

357 3 Apple Hill Drive

358 Natick, MA

359 United States 01760

360

361 <sup>d</sup> SPSS

362 IBM Australia Ltd

363 Level 13, IBM Centre

364 601 Pacific Highway

365 St Leonards

366 NSW 2065

367 **Figure Legends**

368

369 Figure 1: Flow of participants through study.

370

371 Figure 2: Proportion of the sample who took a trip out into the community on one, two, three,  
372 four or no days across the measurement period at one, three and six months.

373

374 Figure 3: Proportion of trips taken for each purpose at 1, 3 and 6-months.

375

376 Figure 4: Proportion of (a) time spent and (b) steps taken in the community for each trip type  
377 at 1, 3 and 6-months.

378

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Table 1: Sample characteristics at hospital discharge

	n = 34
Demographics	
Age (years)	71.6 ± 13.8
Rehab stay (days)	23.6 ± 21.3
Gender (n, % males)	24, 70.6
Employed prior to stroke (n, %)	12, 35.2
Returned to work by six months (n, %)*	5, 42.0
Carer (n, % with)	16, 47.1
Hemiplegia (n, %)	
Nil	7, 20.6
Left	6, 17.6
Right	20, 58.8
Bilateral	1, 2.9
Modified Rankin Scale score / 6 (median, IQR)	2, 1
Motor Assessment Scale score at discharge	
MAS item 1 score / 6 (median, IQR)	6, 0
MAS item 2 score / 6 (median, IQR)	6, 0
MAS item 3 score / 6 (median, IQR)	6, 0
MAS item 4 score / 6 (median, IQR)	6, 0
MAS item 5 score / 6 (median, IQR)	6, 2
MAS item 6 score / 6 (median, IQR)	6, 0
MAS item 7 score / 6 (median, IQR)	6, 1
MAS item 8 score / 6 (median, IQR)	6, 2
Aphasia (n, % with)	9, 26.5
Received therapy on discharge (n, %)	18, 52.9
Independent with outdoor walking at discharge (n, %)	32, 94
Used a gait aid at hospital discharge (n, %)	15, 44
Measures of walking capacity	
10MTW (m/s)	1.0 ± 0.4
6MWT (m)	334.7 ± 139.7

10MTW: Timed 10 metre walk (comfortable pace), 6MWT: 6-minute walk test, MAS: Motor assessment scale, \*of those who were working prior to stroke.

Table 2: Mean (SD) of volume, frequency and intensity of community ambulation per day at 1, 3 and 6-months following hospital discharge (raw scores)

	1-month	3-months	6-months
<b>Volume</b>			
Step count, counts	1859 ± 1880	1700 ± 1380	2298 ± 2605
Time spent out in community, minutes	137.0 ± 113.2	120.0 ± 66.9	176.9 ± 148.8
Time spent sitting/lying, minutes	84.8 ± 84.1	70.9 ± 43.1	115.6 ± 116.8
Time spent standing, minutes	30.9 ± 29.2	29.0 ± 21.7	35.7 ± 28.2
Time spent walking, minutes	21.3 ± 20.1	20.1 ± 14.7	25.5 ± 26.6
Time spent upright, minutes	52.2 ± 45.6	49.1 ± 31.5	61.2 ± 50.0
<b>Frequency</b>			
Total number of trips, counts	1.2 ± 0.8	1.1 ± 0.7	1.1 ± 0.6
Number of bouts, counts	23.8 ± 20.9	24.2 ± 17.6	27.8 ± 22.6
Number of short bouts, counts	16.3 ± 15.4	16.8 ± 13.6	19.0 ± 16.2
Number of medium bouts, counts	6.3 ± 5.6	6.4 ± 5.5	7.3 ± 6.9
Number of long bouts, counts *	1.1 ± 1.5	1.0 ± 1.2	1.5 ± 1.8
Duration of time in short bouts, minutes	7.4 ± 7.1	7.8 ± 6.6	8.5 ± 7.3
Duration of time in medium bouts, minutes	10.6 ± 9.6	11.0 ± 9.3	11.9 ± 12.2
Duration of time in long bouts, minutes *	11.3 ± 14.9	9.5 ± 11.2	14.1 ± 21.3
<b>Intensity</b>			
Number of low intensity bouts, counts	10.1 ± 9.4	11.2 ± 10.5	11.1 ± 9.9
Number of moderate intensity bouts, counts	11.9 ± 11.2	11.3 ± 8.7	14.3 ± 13.2
Number of high intensity bouts, counts	1.7 ± 1.9	1.7 ± 1.9	2.4 ± 2.6
Duration of time in low intensity bouts, minutes	4.9 ± 4.6	5.9 ± 6.1	5.3 ± 4.7
Duration of time in moderate intensity bouts, minutes	14.0 ± 12.9	14.7 ± 12.2	16.1 ± 15.9
Duration of time in high intensity bouts, minutes	10.3 ± 13.8	7.8 ± 10.7	13.2 ± 21.2

\* indicates that time had a significant effect on measure of community ambulation when adjusted for age and discharge walking capacity (p &lt; 0.05)

Table 3: Changes in community ambulation across 1, 3 and 6-months (values are transformed and adjusted for age and discharge gait speed)

	Month 1 to month 3			Month 1 to month 6		
	Mean change	95% confidence interval	p-value	Mean change	95% confidence interval	p-value
<b>Volume</b>						
Step count	19.1	-78.7 to 116.8	0.688	116.0	1.2 to 230.7	0.048
Time spent out in community	11.3	-14.2 to 36.8	0.366	12.7	-27.9 to 53.3	0.524
Time spent sitting/lying	10.4	-12.7 to 33.5	0.353	-0.5	-39.9 to 38.8	0.978
Time spent standing	4.6	-12.9 to 22.2	0.590	9.5	-8.6 to 27.7	0.290
Time spent walking	1.8	-8.9 to 12.5	0.731	12.7	0.0 to 25.3	0.050
Time spent upright	4.0	-14.7 to 22.7	0.664	15.6	-6.1 to 37.2	0.151
<b>Frequency</b>						
Total number of trips	0.6	-1.5 to 2.7	0.583	0.3	-1.4 to 2.0	0.686
Number of bouts	8.2	-6.2 to 22.5	0.247	8.0	-8.4 to 24.4	0.323
Number of short bouts	7.1	-5.7 to 20.0	0.262	4.2	-10.1 to 18.4	0.552
Number of medium bouts	4.9	-3.6 to 13.4	0.245	8.4	-1.1 to 17.9	0.080
Number of long bouts *	-0.2	-3.6 to 3.3	0.914	4.7	1.7 to 7.7	0.003
Duration of time in short bouts	4.7	-4.2 to 13.5	0.287	3.0	-6.5 to 12.5	0.522
Duration of time in medium bouts ^	6.8	-4.2 to 17.8	0.210	12.1	-0.1 to 24.4	0.052
Duration of time in long bouts *	0.3	-10.3 to 10.8	0.957	13.1	3.5 to 22.7	0.010
<b>Intensity</b>						
Number of low intensity bouts	4.1	-7.2 to 15.4	0.460	1.8	-9.3 to 12.9	0.742
Number of moderate intensity bouts	6.4	-4.7 to 17.5	0.244	8.7	-4.3 to 21.6	0.179
Number of high intensity bouts	1.5	-2.8 to 5.8	0.482	3.7	-0.7 to 7.2	0.104
Duration of time in low intensity bouts	4.4	-3.8 to 12.5	0.277	2.1	-5.5 to 9.7	0.579
Duration of time in moderate intensity	6.5	-7.3 to 20.3	0.340	11.0	-2.6 to 24.6	0.108
Duration of time in high intensity bouts	3.3	-8.9 to 15.5	0.580	10.1	0.6 to 19.7	0.038

\* indicates significant effect of time on measures (overall change  $p < 0.05$ ), ^ indicates trend towards time having an effect on measures (overall change  $p: 0.05$  to  $0.99$ ), p-values are presented for univariate analyses only.

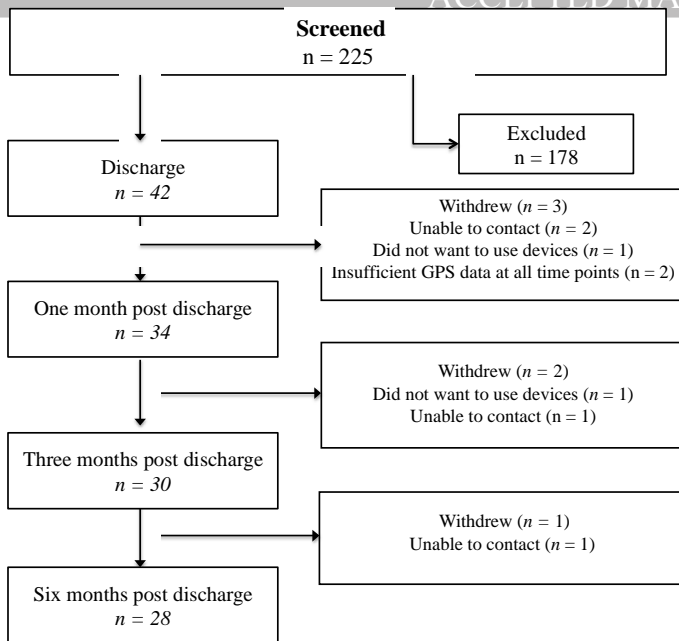


Figure 1: Flow of participants through study

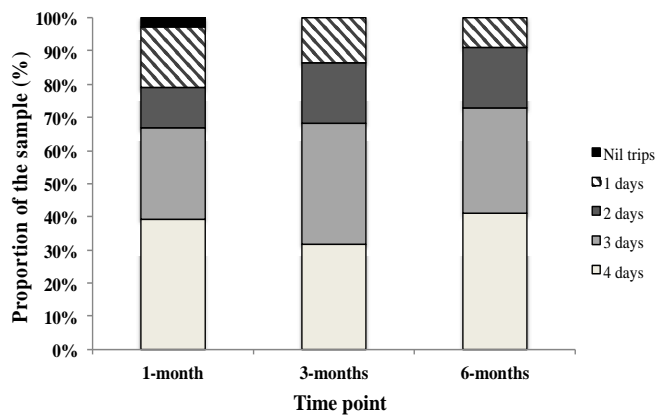


Figure 2: Proportion of the sample who took a trip out into the community on one, two, three, four or no days across the measurement period at one, three and six months

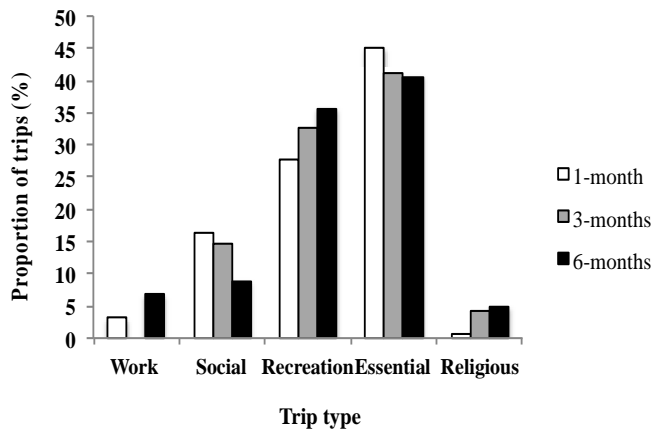


Figure 3: Proportion of trips taken for each purpose at 1, 3 and 6-months

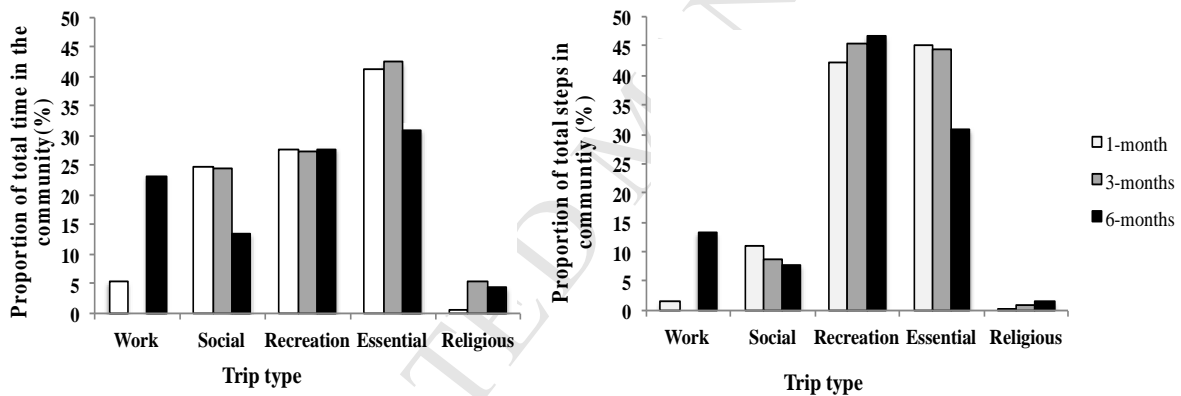


Figure 4: Proportion of (a) time spent and (b) steps taken in the community for each trip type at 1, 3 and 6-months.