

Innovative Adaptation and Dissemination of AHRQ Comparative Effectiveness Research Products

Improving Antipsychotic Appropriateness in Dementia Patients

Description

Antipsychotics have limited effectiveness in dementia and increase risk of mortality and other adverse events. Few drugs have demonstrated efficacy in managing behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia. The purpose of this project was to develop, disseminate, and evaluate the impact of educational resources on management of behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia, including nondrug management, and antipsychotic use and monitoring.

Project Aims

The 3 main aims of this study are to:

- 1) Adapt the AHRQ Comparative Effectiveness Review and Consumer Summary Guide on off-label use of atypical antipsychotics into a clinical decision aid and educational materials for providers and consumers to guide best use of these drugs in dementia.
- 2) Disseminate the decision aid and educational materials to state (Iowa) and national providers through education networks, a practice-based research network, and professional organizations.
- 3) Evaluate the impact of dissemination on educational outcomes, antipsychotic use patterns, and patient-oriented outcomes.

Findings

These products were disseminated through a website and in-person presentations. The site includes brief lectures for healthcare providers or consumers and the decision aids and other resources such as topic review manuscripts. Information was also disseminated through publications. Approximately 3163 individuals registered for the website, and 3634 sets of print guides were disseminated. In a follow-up survey, most respondents found the resources to be somewhat or very helpful in many aspects of clinical care for dementia. An evaluation of the impact of program participation on prescribing patterns and clinical outcomes in Iowa will be completed when these data become available.

Study Population

Elderly Rural

Health Condition Addressed

Dementia

Dissemination Tool and/or Method

Pocket Guides

Online Lectures

www.healthcare.uiowa.edu/igec/iaadapt/
Decision Aid (English and Spanish)

Principal Investigator:

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Institution/Partner:

University of Iowa

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Publications

Smith M, Schultz SK, Seydel LL, Reist J, Kelly M, Weckman M, Gryzlak B, Carnahan R. Improving anti-psychotic agent use in nursing homes: development of an algorithm for treating problem behaviors in dementia. *J Gerontol Nurs*. May 2013;39(5):24-35; quiz 36-37.

Carnahan RM. Challenges in Estimating Mortality Risk from Antipsychotics in People with Alzheimer's disease (letter). *Am J Psychiatry*. 2014;171:227.

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Carnahan RM. The “Improving Antipsychotic Appropriateness in Dementia Patients” clinical tools and training program. *Ment Health Clin*. May 2012;1(11).

Abrams MA, Carnahan RM. A shared decision-making guide for antipsychotic use in dementia. *Ment Health Clin*. October 2012;2, (4).

Smith M, Carnahan R. Responding to challenging behaviors in dementia: the IA-ADAPT project. Part 1: identifying, assessing and treating contributing factors. *Quality Improvement for Nursing Facilities* 2012:3rd quarter newsletter.

Smith M, Carnahan R. Responding to challenging behaviors in dementia: the IA-ADAPT project. Part 2: selecting and applying non-pharmacological interventions. *Quality Improvement for Nursing Facilities* 2012:4th quarter newsletter.

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