

Innovative Adaptation and Dissemination of AHRQ Comparative Effectiveness Research Products

Off-Label Use of Atypical Antipsychotics in the Nursing Home

Description

The prevalence of off-label use of atypical antipsychotic drugs among the 1.6 million residents of U.S. nursing homes is extraordinarily high; nationally, over 20% of all nursing home residents are prescribed antipsychotic medications, primarily atypical agents. The complexity of the nursing home setting presents special challenges for fostering the use of products and tools such as the Comparative Effectiveness Research Summary Guide (CERSG) “Off-Label Use of Atypical Antipsychotic Drugs.” This demonstration project aimed to translate the CERSG into a toolkit targeting nursing home stakeholders, including facility leadership, prescribers and consultant pharmacists, nursing staff, and residents and their families, to improve its penetration into practice in the nursing home setting. Outcomes were evaluated using the Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation, Maintenance framework.

Project Aims

The project aims were:

- (1) To conduct a needs assessment for the nursing home setting relevant to the AHRQ Comparative Effectiveness Research Summary Guide (CERSG) entitled “Off-Label Use of Atypical Antipsychotic Drugs.”
- (2) To produce a toolkit, guided by the needs assessment, containing tailored CERSG-based products targeting key audiences and stakeholders in the nursing home setting.
- (3) To evaluate the effectiveness of the toolkit and three dissemination strategies using a matched, cluster randomized trial.

Findings

This study examining increasingly intensive dissemination strategies to reach nursing home staff with an evidence-based antipsychotic prescribing toolkit demonstrated reductions in antipsychotic prescribing level in all study arms during the intervention period, with no differences in the magnitude of reduction across study arms.

Study Populations

African American
Asian
Hispanic/Latino

Health Condition Addressed

Dementia

Dissemination Tool and/or Method

Decision Aid for providers (available in English, Spanish and Chinese)
Decision Aid for patients (available in English, Spanish and Chinese)
<https://www.nursing-home-antipsychotic.org/>

Principal Investigator: Jerry H. Gurwitz, MD

Institution/Partner: University of Massachusetts Medical School

Project Period: 9/1/2010 – 8/31/2013

Grant Number: 1R18HS019351

**Innovative Adaptation and Dissemination of AHRQ Comparative Effectiveness
Research Products**

Publications

Tjia J, Field T, Lemay C, Mazor K, Pandolfi M, Spenard A, Ho SY, Kanaan A, Donovan J, Gurwitz JH, Briesacher B. Antipsychotic use in nursing homes varies by psychiatric consultant. *Med Care*. 2014 Mar;52(3):267-271. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24374410>

Lemay CA, Mazor KM, Field TS, Donovan J, Kanaan A, Briesacher BA, Foy S, Harrold LR, Gurwitz JH, Tjia J. Knowledge of and perceived need for evidence-based education about antipsychotic medications among nursing home leadership and staff. *J Am Med Dir Assoc*. 2013 Dec;14(12):895-900. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24074962>

Briesacher BA, Tjia J, Field T, Peterson D, Gurwitz JH. Antipsychotic use among nursing home residents. *JAMA*. 2013 Feb 6;309(5):440-442. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23385262>

Tjia J, Gurwitz JH, Briesacher BA. Challenge of changing nursing home prescribing culture. *Am J Geriatr Pharmacother*. 2012 Feb;10(1):37-46. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22264855>

Return to main iADAPT page.