

Title: Regional roll out of a medicines optimisation in older people pharmacy service in intermediate care

In: on Monday, 3 September 2018, 12:00-14:30

Type: Poster

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Abstract:

Background Between 2012 and 2016 a consultant pharmacist led case management medicines optimisation model for older people admitted into intermediate care (IC) was developed. Based on outcomes, funding was then granted to deliver the service across Northern Ireland. **Methods** Over a 4-week period (early 2018) medical, demographic and drug related data [including drug costs and appropriateness measured using the medication appropriateness index (MAI)] were gathered on case managed patients in IC. Patient follow-up and outcomes data collection is ongoing and includes subsequent healthcare resource usage over 30 and 90 days. **Results** Data were collected for 162 patients (115 female, 47 male, aged 83.6 +/- 7.9 years; range 64 to 97 years). Most (95%) had been transferred from acute care with the remainder admitted to IC upon General Practitioner (GP) request. On admission to IC patients were taking 10.3 +/- 4.2 drugs (range =0 to 22) with a total MAI score of 15.4 +/- 12.7 (n=161); of those discharged to date, the total MAI reduced to 1.1 +/- 2.3 (Wilcoxon signed rank test, p< 0.001, n=138). On average patients required five clinical interventions with stopping or starting a drug being the most common. Total net drug cost savings were £7588 during the four-week period. **Conclusion** The service is still embedding in new IC settings; preliminary results indicate improved appropriateness of drugs prescribed via case management with associated cost savings. Impact on future healthcare resource usage e.g. GP call outs, emergency department visits and hospital admissions will now be determined. **References** Miller R et al. The development and refinement of a regional model for medicines optimisation in older people in the Intermediate Care setting. *Int J Integrated Care*. 2017;17(5):A120. Hanlon JT et al. A method for determining drug therapy appropriateness. *J of Clin Epidem*, 1992;45 (10): 1045-51.