

Title: Using an Evidence Based Practice Informatics Safety Intervention to Improve Medication Safety among Community Dwelling Older Adults

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Abstract: Medication safety and prevention of medication related problems are important issues in promoting and maintaining health and safety in one's home for community dwelling older adults. Assessment of medications and management of a medication schedule are essential elements of medication safety, medication review, and medication care coordination. *The Framework for Geriatric Homecare Excellence* (Collaboration for Home Care Advances and Practices, 2009) is used as the foundation of this project to improve medication management, and promote and maintain health and safety at home. An in-home medication assessment was completed, using a medication management software informatics system to review medications, identify medication related problems, and convey this information to the Primary Care Provider, case manager, and client. Evidence based patient-centered educational interventions on management and understanding of medications were provided to participants to emphasize the correct use of medications and use of a personal medication record. The goal of this health promotion and health maintenance project was to improve medication safety through focused assessment and medication related education interventions for community dwelling older adults. This informatics based medication safety intervention showed considerable strength in completing and sharing medication home assessments enhanced by the software abilities. Significant outcome improvements were associated with the pre-post test comparison in provision of an up-to-date medication list and comprehension by clients of specific medication safety education.

Keywords: polypharmacy, community health, older adults, inappropriate medications, medication safety, nursing informatics, medication/health literacy