

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Elderly patients with polypharmacy are at high risk of adverse drug events. The objective of this project was to improve medication safety in high risk patients (defined as those ≥ 75 years of age and on ≥ 7 medications) by developing an automatic medication review process by a clinical pharmacist.

PLAN

For this initial PDSA (PlanDoStudyAct) cycle high risk patients at one clinic were identified via a search on our Electronic Medical Record and 9 patients were selected for a face to face medication review with the clinical pharmacist. The goal of this cycle was to help elucidate the role that the pharmacist could play in improving medication safety in our clinic.

DO

Data was collected on the total number of medications pre and post intervention. This was used as a surrogate marker of improved medication safety as it was not practical to measure this directly.

Data was also collected on the various interventions performed by the pharmacist including:

Stopping inappropriate medications, reducing doses, changing to more appropriate medications, adding an appropriate medication, clarifying medications, identifying and correcting inappropriate medication administration errors and compliance problems.

TABLE 1

Basic Demographics	
Total number of patients	9
Average age	82
Average number of medical conditions	11

STUDY

The average age of the patients was 82 and the average number of medical conditions was 11. (Tab 1)

The average number of medications per patient pre-evaluation was 13 and post-evaluation was 12. (Fig 1) Pharmacist interventions are documented in Figure 2.

FIGURE 1

Ave. Number of Meds per Patient

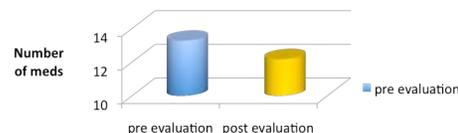
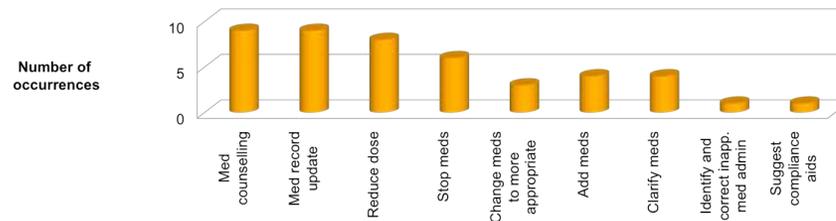


FIGURE 2

Pharmacist Interventions



ACT

Future directions

- Implement the automatic referral system for all high risk patients identified at St. James Town Health Centre.
- Elicit feedback from providers regarding process issues.
- Elicit feedback from patients.
- Clarify best communication methods between providers and best methods for patient follow up.
- Discuss how to use this as an education tool for safer prescribing.

REFERENCES

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