

Impact of Partnered Pharmacist Medication Charting on Reducing Anticholinergic Burden in Older Adults

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Background

Partnered pharmacist medication charting (PPMC) refers to the charting of inpatient medicines by a credentialed pharmacist after a clinical conversation with a medical officer.

PPMC is known to reduce hospital length-of-stay and medication errors, however investigations into the program's ability to reduce anticholinergic burden in older adults are lacking.

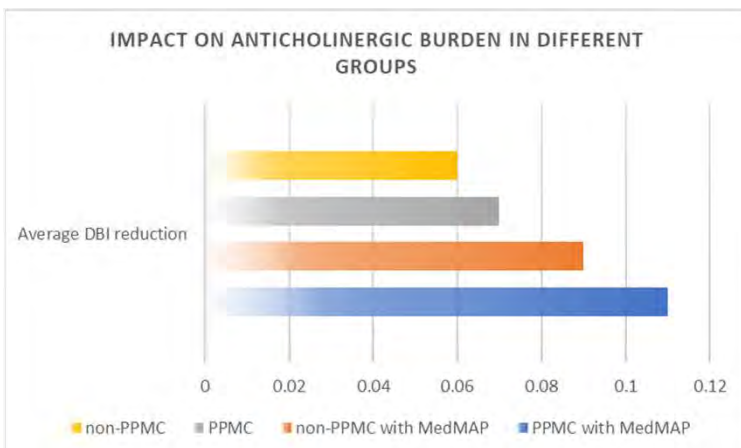
Aims

To evaluate the impact of PPMC on reducing anticholinergic burden among older adults using the Drug Burden Index (DBI), as a measure to estimate the cumulative effects of anticholinergic medications use.

Methods

400 hospitalised patients under general medicine or emergency medicine unit aged ≥ 65 years, taking at least one anticholinergic medication between 2021-2022 were included in this study.

It categorised 4 groups of 100 patients each into the PPMC, non-PPMC, PPMC with MedMAP, and non-PPMC with MedMAP. DBI for each patient was calculated and compared across the groups using descriptive statistics.



Results

PPMC had a positive impact on the reduction of anticholinergic burden in older adults.

There was a 31% reduction of average DBI change on discharge when comparing PPMC to non-PPMC group and 15% reduction when comparing PPMC with MedMAP to non-PPMC with MedMAP group.

The study shows PPMC with MedMAP group appeared to be the most effective in reducing anticholinergic burden among older adults across 4 groups, which had an average DBI reduction of 0.11.

Discussion

PPMC

The results highlighted the importance of pharmacist interventions, especially PPMC pharmacists, in reducing anticholinergic burden for older adults.

Reinforcing the PPMC service through the inclusion and review of the DBI during assessments is crucial.

Education

Awareness and initiatives for deprescribing anticholinergic drugs should be reinforced with PPMC-accredited pharmacists.

PPMC should not be seen as a replacement for MedMAP for anticholinergic medication reviews, but rather complement it as tool for improving quality use of medicine.