



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

University of Wollongong
Research Online

Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences - Papers
(Archive)

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health

2011

The introduction and evaluation of a warfarin management strategy into Illawarra residential aged care facilities

Margaret Jordan

University of Wollongong, mjordan@uow.edu.au

Judy Mullan

University of Wollongong, jmullan@uow.edu.au

Victoria Traynor

University of Wollongong, vtraynor@uow.edu.au

Publication Details

Jordan, M., Mullan, J. & Traynor, V. (2011). The introduction and evaluation of a warfarin management strategy into Illawarra residential aged care facilities. Medication Safety for Older People NSW: Change Champions P/L.

Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library:
research-pubs@uow.edu.au

The introduction and evaluation of a warfarin management strategy into Illawarra residential aged care facilities

Keywords

care, residential, warfarin, facilities, aged, introduction, strategy, evaluation, into, illawarra, management

Disciplines

Arts and Humanities | Life Sciences | Medicine and Health Sciences | Social and Behavioral Sciences

Publication Details

Jordan, M., Mullan, J. & Traynor, V. (2011). The introduction and evaluation of a warfarin management strategy into Illawarra residential aged care facilities. Medication Safety for Older People NSW: Change Champions P/L.

**Change Champions:
Medication Safety for Older People:
Melbourne, 2011**

Title: Evaluating the Implementation of a Warfarin-Specific Medication Chart in Residential Aged Care Facilities

Background: Preliminary research conducted locally highlighted barriers to safe use of warfarin in the frail older population in Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs) due to logistical and communication difficulties, as well as patient selection. One recommendation was to formulate and trial a standardised warfarin-specific medication chart which could function as a prescription, monitoring and administration record.

Research design: A warfarin-specific medication chart was inductively developed with those involved in warfarin management. Ethics approval was gained for the introduction of a warfarin-management strategy for high-level care residents of participating local RACFs. General Practitioners (GPs) and residents (or their nominated person) provided consent. Qualitative and quantitative data were collected for evaluation purposes.

Results: Eleven interactive education sessions were held for 56 nurses involved in warfarin management. The strategy was trialled in 3 RACFs for 23 residents for 3 months. Qualitative evaluation was by semi-structured interviews. Compared to previous methods, 8 of 9 GPs found the charts easier to prescribe warfarin; 100% found that communication was enhanced, the chart easy to use and time-saving. Six out of 12 (50%) Registered Nurses found the charts enhanced communication, saved time, and provided more information than previous methods. Ten of 11 RNs found the dose easier to find and the charts easy to use. All GPs and RNs (100%) recommended adopting the strategy in their RACFs.

Conclusions: Barriers exist to quality warfarin management in RACFs. The introduction of this novel warfarin-management strategy has the potential to enhance warfarin safety and has gained approval by those responsible for warfarin management with recommendations for wider adoption.

AUTHORS (Role and Institution)

1. Margaret Jordan, NPS facilitator, Illawarra Division of General Practice and Master of Science by Research Student, School of Nursing, Midwifery & Indigenous Health, University of Wollongong

2. Dr Judy Mullan, Senior Lecturer, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Wollongong
3. Associate Professor Victoria Traynor Rehabilitation, Continuing and Aged Care and Associate Director, NSW/ ACT Dementia Training Study Centre, School of Nursing, Midwifery & Indigenous Health, University of Wollongong