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A medication management information resource to support people living with dementia and their caregivers

Robyn Gillespie

University of Wollongong, rjg906@uowmail.edu.au

Judy Mullan

University of Wollongong, jmullan@uow.edu.au

Lindsey Harrison

University of Wollongong, lharriso@uow.edu.au

Publication Details

Gillespie, R., Mullan, J. & Harrison, L. (2015). A medication management information resource to support people living with dementia and their caregivers. 30th International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International: Abstract Book (pp. 242-242). Australia: Alzheimer's Disease International.

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Abstract

Abstract presented at the 30th International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International, 15 - 18 April 2015, Perth, Australia

Disciplines

Medicine and Health Sciences | Social and Behavioral Sciences

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Gillespie, R., Mullan, J. & Harrison, L. (2015). A medication management information resource to support people living with dementia and their caregivers. 30th International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International: Abstract Book (pp. 242-242). Australia: Alzheimer's Disease International.

Poster Abstracts

P121

Topic: Support Services for Carers

A MEDICATION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION RESOURCE TO SUPPORT PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CAREGIVERS.

Robyn Gillespie^{1*} Judy Mullan¹ Lindsey Harrison²

¹Graduate School of Medicine, ²School of Health and Society, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, Australia

Objectives: ADI. 2015

Supporting and Enabling People Living with Dementia

A medication management information resource to support people living with dementia and their caregivers.

R. J. Gillespie¹

J.R. Mullan¹

L. Harrison²

¹Graduate School of Medicine, ²School of Health and Society, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, Australia

People living with dementia (PLWD) often require medication either to manage the progression of their dementia or treat other concurrent diseases. Ongoing safe and effective medication management is important for the PLWD in order to maintain their quality of life and prevent hospitalisation or placement into a residential aged care facility.

From the perspective of the PLWD or their caregiver/s, medication management is a complex task involving:

- · discussing medication needs with health professionals,
- · understanding potential benefits and risks of medication use,
- · being able to give informed consent to treatment,
- · giving feedback regarding the effectiveness or side effects of medication use,
- · being able to maintain supplies,
- · correct storage,
- · understanding the reason for each medication.

Over time, family caregivers may need to assist the PLWD with some or all of these medication management tasks. Family caregivers need information and support to assist them to effectively support the PLWD with ongoing safe and effective medication management. Family caregivers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds may find accessing information and support for this aspect of their caregiving role even harder. Based on findings from an earlier qualitative study we developed an online medication management resource to guide safe and effective medication management for the PLWD in the community. To increase the accessibility of the information on the site it is planned to present the content in multiple languages (currently English and Italian). Content can be either read or listened to. A printer version of the text is also available. Key messages of the site include:

- · Undertake regular medication reviews
- · Use blister packaged medications; regularly check for their ongoing safe usage
- · Use reputable sources of information about medication – primary care physician, pharmacist, nurse
- · Check it is safe to give crushed medications
- · Know strategies to help take the right medicine at the right time.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

Keywords: community care, Dementia education, ethnic minority, Family carers, medication management