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Managing medications when you have or are caring for someone living with a dementia

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Abstract

Abstract of the oral presentation.

Disciplines

Medicine and Health Sciences | Social and Behavioral Sciences

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Oral presentation at the 2015 National Dementia Research and Knowledge Translation Forum, Sydney, 7-8 September.

Managing medications when you have or are caring for someone living with a dementia

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BACKGROUND:

One in three people will be diagnosed with a dementia before they die, most of whom will be cared for in family homes by their spouse or adult children. These informal caregivers need to understand how to support their family members' to manage their medications appropriately, in order to prevent adverse events and possible hospitalisations. Unfortunately, we know that there is currently little support for informal caregivers from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds. This project aimed to support medication management amongst people living with a dementia and their carers, with a focus on those from CALD backgrounds.

METHODS:

A pilot website was developed in 2013 to provide guidance around medication management to people living with a dementia and their carers from English and Italian backgrounds. The results of this study informed the second iteration of the website (www.dementiameds.com), which also contains a Macedonian version of the materials and is managed using a content management system.

RESULTS:

Initial feedback showed that the site was well received and was promoted by the Local Health District. A comprehensive evaluation is now underway and we expect, by September, to be able to present these results. This will include data from surveys and Google analytics which will provide information about: how the site is being used and by whom, where people are accessing the site from, their perceptions as to the usability of the site (measured using the perceived health web site usability questionnaire (PHWSUQ) for older adults) and health literacy levels (measured using Chew's three screening questions).

CONCLUSIONS:

The results of the evaluation will inform final design changes to the website. At which stage the site will be promoted to national bodies such as Alzheimer's Australia for inclusion on their websites. Funds will also be sought in order to translate and provide audio recordings of the information in other languages frequently spoken in Australia.