

Identifying drug-related problems and developing an interprofessional medication care plan

Introduction:

Identifying potential drug-related problems is an important part of geriatric assessment. Signs and symptoms can be contributed to by drug therapy, and prescribing cascades can result when signs/symptoms are treated by other drugs, rather than tapering or removing the causative medication. Medications are sometimes overused in this population and resulting polypharmacy can impact adherence and increase risk of adverse events. Many health care providers can contribute to resolving drug-related problems in a variety of ways. In this exercise, you will work with other health care providers to identify potential drug-related problems and to develop action plans for managing and monitoring these drug-related problems as a team.

Instructions:

Read the first part of the case description and look at Table 1 – History of Medication Experience. From what you know about the case, discuss in your group the indication, effectiveness, safety and compliance with each medication. Now look at each symptom or unusual sign; what drugs might be contributing to these? As a group, write down the potential drug-related problems, actions that need to be taken to resolve them and indicate monitoring parameters that should be followed to determine outcome of interventions.

Questions for group discussion:

1. Is there information missing from the case that would help you identify drug-related problems?
2. How did your group decide to organize themselves to complete this task?

Resources:

1. Cipolle RD, Strand LM, Morley PC. *Pharmaceutical CarePractice: The Clinician's Guide*. McGraw-Hill; 2004
2. Winslade N, Bajcar J. Therapeutic Thought Process Algorithm (NAPRA, 1995). Available: http://www.napra.org/Content_Files/Files/algorithm.pdf(accessedAug 7, 2012).
3. E-therapeutics or Lexi-interactdrug interactions checker: <http://www.pharmacists.ca/index.cfm/function/store/PublicationDetail.cfm?pPub=9> or <http://www.lexi.com/>
4. CrClcalculation: http://www.globalrph.com/multiple_crcl.htm

