Patient's own medication use in hospital: effect on self-reported medication knowledge

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Background

• Improving patient’s medication knowledge and consequently medication use is essential for optimal treatment outcomes
• Patient’s knowledge about medication is currently suboptimal
• Hypothesis: Patient’s Own Medication (POM) use will improve patient’s medication knowledge.

Objectives
1) To assess the impact of POM use on self-reported medication knowledge of hospitalised patient and 2) POM users’ sense of medication safety, attitude to the provision of information, inpatient medication use preferences compared to standard care

Methods

• Nationwide pre-post intervention study
• Perceived medication knowledge was assessed with a statement questionnaire completed:
  • at hospitalisation
  • during hospitalisation
  • at discharge
• Patients’ answers were categorised into positive and negative/neural
• The proportion of patients with adequate medication knowledge was calculated and compared
• The effect of POM use was corrected for potential confounders in a multivariate logistic regression analyses

Results

• 731 patients (80.2%) completed the questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement about medication safety, the provision of information and inpatient medication use</th>
<th>Moment of response</th>
<th>Standard care (% positive)</th>
<th>POM use (% positive)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I think that the use of the medicines that I use at home reduces the number of medication errors</td>
<td>At discharge</td>
<td>52.9</td>
<td>74.0</td>
<td>&lt; 0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During hospitalisation it is clear to me which medicines from home I still use</td>
<td>During hospitalisation</td>
<td>85.8</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am informed about replacing a medicine that I use at home with a medicine from the hospital</td>
<td>During hospitalisation</td>
<td>65.4</td>
<td>67.8</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When medication is started during the admission, I am informed about this</td>
<td>During hospitalisation</td>
<td>76.3</td>
<td>79.6</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have no more questions about my medication after admission</td>
<td>At discharge</td>
<td>85.2</td>
<td>89.3</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I know where or to whom I can go with my questions about medication</td>
<td>At discharge</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>92.6</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would like to be able to continue to use my medicines from home during the admission</td>
<td>At discharge</td>
<td>68.2</td>
<td>82.2</td>
<td>&lt; 0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would like to manage my medicines from home (when they are used during the admission) by myself</td>
<td>At discharge</td>
<td>56.2</td>
<td>62.7</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion

• POM use has the ability to positively influence patient’s medication knowledge about how to use medication
• POM use
  • enhances the perception of medication safety
  • patients have a positive attitude towards the provision of information
  • most patients prefer it

Patients’ Own Medication (POM) use seems a valuable intervention. More research towards POM use (in combination with self-administration) is recommended

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