

Sensory impairment and pharmaceutical care: What are the needs of older people receiving polypharmacy?

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Background

The number of older people (>65 years) who have sensory impairment (visual and/or hearing loss) is increasing. Future increases are anticipated due to the ageing population. Sensory impairment is associated with higher risk of death and reduced quality of life. Older people often have multiple health conditions which are managed by medicines. Medicine management can be difficult for older people and when combined with sensory impairment, visual and/or hearing, these difficulties are exacerbated. Despite the magnitude of this problem, there has been little exploration of the needs of older people with sensory impairment regarding their medicines management and how personnel in community pharmacies could help i.e. provide person-centred pharmaceutical care. This study seeks to explore older people's needs for and experiences of pharmaceutical care and will generate information which will be used to develop future community pharmacy services to provide effective pharmaceutical care for older people with sensory loss.

Aims of Study

The aim of this project is to explore the pharmaceutical care needs of older service users with sensory impairment and polypharmacy by critically reviewing current service provision through community pharmacies from the perspective of older people with sensory impairment, formal and informal carers, and pharmacy personnel. This will be achieved by:

- exploring the pharmaceutical care needs of older adults with sensory impairment;
- exploring the experiences of carers in receiving pharmaceutical care support;
- examining experiences and attitudes of community pharmacy team members in relation to older adults with sensory impairments and polypharmacy needs;
- developing evidence-informed strategies to enhance pharmaceutical care practices in community-settings for older people with sensory impairments

Methods of Working

Semi-structured in-depth interviews with older people with sensory impairment and receiving polypharmacy (4+ medications) (27) (18) in five Scottish Health Board Settings (Tayside, Grampian, Forth Valley and Highlands and Western Isles) allowing for geographical variation and urban, rural and remote representation.

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Contact

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