

Abstract

Background

OPTI-SCRIPT is a multi-faceted intervention developed in response to a widespread call to address the high prevalence of Potentially Inappropriate Prescribing (PIP) that other studies had consistently reported across elderly patient groups. Many of these studies recommended the development of meaningful interventions to address PIP. OPTI-SCRIPT supports a medication review process. Three monthly medication reviews are mandated for nursing home patients in Ireland by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA). The primary objective of this study is to learn if OPTI-SCRIPT could be utilised in the nursing home sector to address PIP.

Methodology

Online questionnaires were sent to pharmacists and nurses to establish their opinion on PIP, HIQA guidelines and processes of medication review. GPs completed a semi-structured interview questionnaire following on from a session of academic detailing and a hypothetical display of OPTI-SCRIPT. Low response was an issue, nonetheless some good outcomes were achieved.

Results

Much was learnt about how approaches to PIP differed across professions. Concern was generally high that PIP may be having an effect on the quality of life of patients. Notably, nurses who spend the most time with patients were the most concerned. Compliance with HIQA guidelines appears high. Opinion on the standard of medication review was high, yet studies that assess PIP in Irish nursing homes return unacceptably high levels of PIP. This disconnect was significant as similar examples of it exist in other studies. GPs would be keen to utilise a tool like OPTI-SCRIPT but it would have to save GP time or at worst not take up any more time. Incentivisation should be considered as this is fundamental to a state of the art review process in place in Australia (*Medscope Review Manager*). Some small suggestions were made to improve OPTI-SCRIPT but as is, it is better than anything else available in Ireland. The concept is well regarded. Future research should focus on development of a useable interface and how to implement the tool successfully.

Keywords

Inappropriate prescribing, nursing home, residential facilities, drug utilisation review, pharmacist, nurse, general practitioner