

Evaluation of the Costs and Consequences of Self-administration of Medication During Hospitalization

Introduction:

- In Danish hospitals, medication is generally administered to patients by healthcare professionals.
- Lately, patients are interested in influencing the course of their treatment, which requires self-management support from healthcare professionals.
- Self-administration of medication (SAM) is one of the key aspects of self-management.
- It leads to increased independence, control, knowledge, and higher medication safety among patients.
- Evaluation of the health economic impact of SAM can shed light on measures required to maximize health improvements.
- To do so, a cost consequence analysis is recommended, which reveals the total cost of implementing the intervention along with its consequences.
- Thus, researchers from Denmark evaluated the costs and consequences of introducing SAM during hospitalization as compared to nurse-led medication and administration, from a hospital perspective.

Methods:

- Patients ≥ 18 years of age who were capable of self-administering medication were recruited from a Danish Hospital.
- They were randomly assigned to two groups:
 - Intervention group, in which medication was self-administered.
 - Control group, in which the dispensing and administration of medication was nurse-led.
- Total costs and consequences of the administration of medication in both groups were evaluated.

Results:

- The total cost per patient in the intervention group was 49.9€ compared to 52.6€ in the control group, but this difference was not statistically significant.
- The percentage of dispensing errors was significantly lower in the intervention group as compared to the control group.
- Changed perception regarding medication, increased satisfaction, and fewer deviations in the medication list were observed among patients.
- No significant differences between the groups were observed with respect to consumption of healthcare resources.

Conclusion:

- This study sheds light on the total cost behind self-administration of medication during hospitalization.
- Despite the insignificant cost differences between the groups, SAM seems to cost less and may be a cost-effective approach, owing to its positive impact on patient outcomes.

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