CREATING A SYNERGIST MODEL: INNOVATIVE PHARMACY PRACTICE IN A LONG-TERM CARE AND SKILLED NURSING FACILITY
CT Alessi, LM Cuellar, TIRR Memorial Hermann, Houston, TX

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BACKGROUND – TIRR Memorial Hermann (TIRR) is an inpatient rehabilitation facility experienced in managing medically complex patients while increasing overall independence and health. University Place (UP) Senior Living Community offers four levels of care: independent living, personal assistance services, long-term care (LTAC), & skilled nursing (SNF). Residents in LTAC & SNF are medically fragile, often on complex medication regimens. Increasing pharmacist involvement at UP through partnership with TIRR Pharmacy presented a great opportunity for collaborative care.

PURPOSE: To initiate a new model of care by increasing pharmacist’s role within a LTAC/SNF. To ensure improved patient outcomes by increased medication management oversight. To optimize the synergy between TIRR & UP to provide comprehensive, patient-centered transitional care.

METHODS: Critical aspects of practice model include having a Clinical Specialist on site 2 days/week providing: medication reconciliation within 72 hours of admission, consistent drug regimen reviews, leading an interdisciplinary medication management team, using a clinical surveillance tool, creating a dashboard for intervention tracking, & initiation of antibiotic stewardship program.

RESULTS: In the first seven months, 556 pharmacist interventions were documented, 50 immunizations were administered to independent & assisted living residents, and an estimated $32K medication cost savings was realized. Medication reviews increased by 15 patients/month. Drug wastage decreased by 50% per month. Eight pharmacist-managed protocols were approved & initiated. Education activities included nursing medication in-services.

CONCLUSIONS: Increased pharmacist leadership in medication management, staff reporting satisfaction & patients are receiving improved coordination of care.

Disclosures: None

Contact information: Primary author, Carolyn Alessi, carolyn.alessi@memorialhermann.org