

Assessment of geriatric pharmacology information design: a survey

Submission date 27/06/2019	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 08/07/2019	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 03/09/2021	Condition category Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Multiple diseases, medications and age-related changes put older adults at increased risk of harm from drugs. The majority of drug-related hospital visits are due to errors in prescribing and monitoring. Currently available text-based drug information resources can be lengthy for time-pressed clinicians and may not provide sufficient specific information regarding older adults. The researchers have developed concise, evidence-based, geriatric drug information resources (GPIDs) that use graphic design to facilitate learning. The aim of this study is to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of GPIDs. This is achieved by measuring the amount of time it will require prescribing clinicians to answer 5 case-based questions regarding prescribing for complex older adults using either GPIDs or usual drug information resources. Other aims include measuring knowledge retention using a knowledge-retention test, and assessing user-friendliness and overall reading experience of the GPIDs. The researchers will also investigate how various learning styles may impact the effectiveness and efficiency of the GPIDs.

Who can participate?

Prescribing clinicians (physicians, pharmacists, nurse practitioners) of any age currently practicing in Canada

What does the study involve?

The study involves randomly allocating prescribing clinicians (physicians, pharmacists and nurse practitioners) to one of two groups and instructing both to solve 5 identical case-based questions: one group is instructed to use only GPIDs and the other group is instructed to use their usual drug information resources. After this intervention, the researchers examine the required time for each group to answer the 5 questions. Next, both groups complete a series of questionnaires and tests in the following order: demographic questions, Health Professionals Inventory of Learning Styles (HPILS), knowledge retention test, open-ended questions about the GPIDs and finally questions about perceived user-friendliness and overall reading experience.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

There are no risks or direct benefits related to participation in the study.

Where is the study run from?

The study is being run by the principle investigators based out of McMaster University and GeriMedRisk (Waterloo, Ontario) and takes place on the SurveyMonkey platform.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

October 2017 to July 2019

Who is funding the study?

Peer-reviewed grant from the Centre for Aging and Brain Health Innovation (CABHI)

Who is the main contact?

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Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

Contact name

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Additional identifiers

Study information

Scientific Title

Assessment of geriatric pharmacology information design: a randomized control trial

Study objectives

It is hypothesized that using geriatric pharmacology information design materials (GPIDs) will facilitate learning about prescribing medications to older adults. It is hypothesized that prescribing clinicians will find GPIDs to be a more user-friendly, efficient and effective format of learning about geriatric pharmacology compared to current, text-based formats.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Approved 25/06/2018, Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board (HiREB) (293 Wellington Street North, Suite 102, Hamilton ON, L8L 8E7, Canada; Tel: +1 (0)905 521 2100 ext 70014; Email: erebhelpdesk@hhsc.ca), Project #: 4790

Primary study design

Interventional

Study design

Multicentre double-blind randomized control trial

Study type(s)

Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Prescribing practices for older adults

Interventions

The study involves randomly assigning prescribing clinicians (physicians, pharmacists and nurse practitioners) to one of two treatment groups and instructing both to solve 5 identical case-based questions: one group will be instructed to use only GPIDs and the other group will be instructed to use their usual drug information resources. After this intervention, the researchers will examine the required time for each group to answer the 5 questions. Next, both groups will complete a series of questionnaires and tests in the following order: demographics questions, Health Professionals Inventory of Learning Styles (HPILS), knowledge retention test, open-ended questions about the GPIDs and finally questions about perceived user-friendliness and overall reading experience.

Intervention Type

Other

Primary outcome(s)

Time required by prescribing clinicians to complete 5 case-based questions about prescribing to older adults (start defined as time when online survey was accessed, stop defined as time when online survey completion button pressed; as measured by Survey Monkey). Measured at a single timepoint.

Key secondary outcome(s)

Measured at a single timepoint:

1. Learning styles measured using the Health Professionals' Inventory of Learning Styles (H-PILS)
2. Knowledge retention test scores (defined as the % of correct answers to the case-based short answer questions in part 2 of the survey)
3. User-friendliness of the infographics, assessed using a series of closed-ended questions about their reading experience followed by open-ended feedback questions

Completion date

31/07/2019

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Prescribing clinicians

Participant type(s)

Health professional

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Sex

All

Total final enrolment

43

Key exclusion criteria

Health professionals involved in the development of the Geriatric Pharmacology Information Design Materials

Date of first enrolment

10/02/2019

Date of final enrolment

31/07/2019

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

Canada

Study participating centre**McMaster University**

3rd Floor, 10B Victoria Street South

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Sponsor information**Organisation**

McMaster University

ROR

<https://ror.org/02fa3aq29>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Research organisation

Funder Name

Centre for Aging and Brain Health Innovation

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The data sharing plans for the current study are unknown and will be made available at a later date.

IPD sharing plan summary

Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article		12/06/2021	03/09/2021	Yes	No