



Ontario Shores
Centre for Mental Health Sciences

Simply Put: Research Summaries

Mending the Cracks: A Case Study in Using Technology to Assist with Transitional Care for Persons with Dementia

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Simply Put: Research Summaries briefly describe research studies done by Ontario Shores researchers and collaborators. These summaries make our research available to the wider community interested in mental health research. They highlight interesting and relevant research and researchers at Ontario Shores. The authors at Ontario Shores are bolded in the About the Researchers section.

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What's it about?

When people are discharged from hospital, important information about their health and treatment needs to be transferred to the new health care team. People with advanced dementia may have problems communicating their needs to their health care team and transfers through the health care system are often accompanied by worsening health.

This study describes the development of a careplan to help communicate important information to other health care providers when people with dementia are discharged from hospital.

What did the researchers do?

They developed a careplan that pulled together information from the electronic medical record. The careplan was written from the patient's point of view (for example, "I like..."; "I need assistance with..."; etc.) and included relevant information from each member of the healthcare team.

What did they find?

The researchers noted five things that they considered necessary to be able to start using "My Dementia Careplan" in practice:

1. Support from hospital management;
2. Focusing on individual patient goals and using information from all members of the healthcare team to make sure all aspects of care are considered;

3. Use of the electronic medical record to automatically generate a report;
4. For the hospital to communicate well with long-term care facilities, family members and community care providers need to make sure all of the information is transferred to the right places;
5. To write the careplan in the first person so people with dementia are given a voice and so staff can consider the care they give from the point of view of the patient.

Why this research matters?

This work is important because it helps the hospital to follow recommendations by Health Quality Ontario to make sure people with dementia are getting the care they need when they are moved from the hospital to a long-term care facility.

About the Researchers

Kim Ritchie and **Sarah Kipping** are **Professional Practice Leaders** at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, Whitby, Ontario Canada.

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Keywords

careplan, dementia, quality standards, transitions in care, patient transfers.

Citation

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