Reviewer’s report

Title: Management of Constipation in Long-term Care Hospitals and its Ward Manager and Organization Factors

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Reviewer: Koichi Yabunaka

Reviewer's report:

General Comment: Thanks for your contribution. Your study, cross-sectional questionnaire survey of ward managers and staff nurses working in LTC wards, you determined daily assessment and practices regarding constipation management. However, there are some questions in your study.

BACKGROUND

P4, 31-38. LTC hospital nurses should focus on more technical or acute care procedures that have a direct and immediate impact on patients, as they can only provide minimal basic care due to their busy schedules.

Question: What is the problem with standard constipation management for sentence above? Nurses are too busy to evaluate bowel movements, or problem with care procedures? What exactly should we focus on?

P6, 8-14. Here, we aimed to assess the current constipation management practices in LTC hospitals and to explore the factors related to constipation management, specifically routine staff assessments for constipation management, the ward managers' perception, and the organizational climate.

Question: What is routine staff assessments for constipation management? Isn't it different depending on the LTC facility? Constipation depends on the patient's diet and physical function.

RESULTS

P13, 16-22. Among the 1,180 hospitals, 283 returned questionnaires. Among these, 36 hospitals did not return the completed questionnaires for both ward managers and nursing staff; therefore, we only analyzed data from 247 hospitals (valid response rate, 20.9).

Question: Why did the survey response rate drop? The organizational climate is related to the reason why the response rate decreased? For example, ward manager has no interest in constipation care?

DISCUSSION

P18, 4-20. For LTC ward managers, interventions to facilitate and support successful constipation
management might be useful to change their beliefs on use of laxatives. For the organization, changing the recording system (e.g., integrating evidence-based assessment/management into the nursing record), conducting audits and regularly providing feedback during case conferences, and increasing learning opportunities (e.g., organizing training sessions in the hospitals) may contribute to promoting effective constipation management.

Question: You proposed the sentence above to the LTC ward managers. Do you have any specific suggestions for on-site nurses? For example, organizing training sessions to increase BSFS usage?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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