Reviewer’s report

Title: Designing a Multifaceted Telehealth Intervention for a Rural Population Using a Model for Developing Complex Interventions in Nursing

Version: 0 Date: 25 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Esther Johnstone

Reviewer's report:

October 25, 2019

This is a well-planned, well-written, collaborative interprofessional, and evidence-based description about the development of a telehealth pilot intervention program for patients' with multiple chronic conditions, that live in a rural setting. The use of telehealth provides cost effective care, education, and timely communication in a remote or virtual manner.

The authors conducted a literature review to make sure that the telehealth pilot intervention was evidence-based and was reflective of scope of practice considerations. The authors used a theory-based approach known as the Model for Developing Complex Interventions in Nursing (MDCN).

The authors included a collaborative interprofessional team that included patient advocates, state representatives, telehealth experts, medical directors, program directors, nurses, managers of patient support services, vendors, services providers, students, and potential participants.

They had a total of 10 meetings. The first meeting identified the problem in need (needs assessment/problem identification). This included reviewing existing literature and interviews with key stakeholders. The second & third meeting identified the target population and objective. This included the results of the literature review from the first meeting. The target population was identified as Medicaid Aged and Disabled (ADW) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBIW) waiver participants (18 years and older), who elected to participate in accessing the Waiver TMH Transition Program. These patients would be supported when they transitioned from long-term care facilities to the community. The fourth meeting identified the Chronic Care Model as the theoretical model to explain interactions between intervention (telehealth) and measures of success. The fifth through ninth meetings included telehealth experts and identified three specific telehealth interventions. The interventions include asynchronous or remote monitoring and synchronous or nursing assessment via the telephone and care coordination. The ninth and tenth meetings included finalizing the interventions and assessing the feasibility with end users. This included vendor contracting and intervention implementation. The tenth meeting include an expert review meeting that include an interprofessional team as previously described.

This sounds like they are going to implement this pilot telehealth intervention program.

This reviewer accepts this manuscript. Thank you!

Dr. Johnstone
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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

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