Reviewer’s report

Title: Information about management of chronic drug therapies prescribed at hospital discharge: does it affect patients' knowledge and self-confidence?

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Reviewer: Diane Holland

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Information about management of chronic drug therapies prescribed at hospital discharge: does it affect patients' knowledge and self-confidence?

The purpose of this study was to evaluate:

1. How communication about new chronic therapies is managed at hospital discharge and what kind of information is provided to patients
2. To what extent patients are aware and confident in the management of these medications
3. Whether the way communication is provided affects patients' awareness and self confidence in the management of these therapies

I disagree with the authors that non-adherence to newly prescribed medications at the time of hospital discharge has not been given much attention.

Methods

Sample eligibility: there is no mention of a cognitive screening process, although it is apparent that one had to occur. And there seems to be an assumption that all patients approached were also responsible for taking their own medications.

Page 6 lines 36 to 46. "Other sources of information… were retrieved… Actual knowledge on prescribed medications and related behaviors were investigated in all participants regardless of source of information." None of this is reported.

It is unclear to this U.S. reviewer why physicians are responsible for medication education rather than a nurse or pharmacist. More explanation of local practices is needed for a global audience.
Discussion

Page 9, line 41. "One third of discharged patients did not receive counselling about…" The data presented just indicates that 1/3 did not receive counseling from a physician. It is unknown if the others received counseling from someone else.

Page 10 line 32. Regarding the second research question. There was no measure of self-confidence in the study. Therefore, the authors cannot speak to the confidence of the subjects.

Page 11 line 10. "a sense of trust was attested by the" This is pure conjecture by the investigators.

Page 11, line 56-61. "allowed us to assess that when written information is supplemented with physician-patient counseling the resulting knowledge is increased" No data was presented regarding the subjects' written information not was it reported that the group who received counseling were asked about the form at all.

Page 12, line 37-41. "Further research is needed to investigate effective communication strategies and which particular aspects of knowledge predict adherence to long term treatments…" While I don't disagree that further research is needed in these 2 areas, these ideas do not seem to be the logical next steps based on the study just completed.

Table 2. the percentages for the physician group seem incorrect. For many variables the category percentages when added exceed 100.

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

No

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.

No

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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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