



School of Pharmacy PhD Projects 2014

Project Title Prescribing in palliative care

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Description Although much attention has been placed on appropriate symptom management at the end of life, little is known about the medications prescribed to people in hospice care. Patients who are admitted for inpatient hospice care are generally older, and have a high burden of co-morbid medical conditions. They often have complex and dynamic health statuses and unique health-care needs. They are at increased risk of polypharmacy (prescribing of multiple medications) as medicines are required to control the symptoms associated with terminal disease and to manage existing chronic conditions. This research project will assess medication use among older hospice inpatients in the weeks and days before death and will consider the numbers of medications prescribed and potential appropriateness of these medications. Data on the decision-making and communication processes involved in continuing, withdrawing or withholding of medications will be collected. These findings will be utilised to develop an intervention to optimize pharmaceutical care for these vulnerable patients. Research methods utilised will include quantitative methods of data collection such as questionnaires and review of medication records and prescribing data, and qualitative methods such as interviews and focus groups.

Start Date 1 October 2014

Keywords Prescribing, polypharmacy, medication appropriateness, end-of-life, hospice

Contact Details

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How to Apply

Postgraduate applications should be made using Queen's Online:

<http://go.qub.ac.uk/pgapply>

Please note that there are two application processes: one for admission to the university and another for postgraduate awards.

Further Information

Additional information for prospective postgraduate students can be found on the School of Pharmacy website:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/pha>

and the Queen's Postgraduate website:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/home/ProspectiveStudents/PostgraduateStudents/>