

Poster Session I
#5

Conceptual and Practice Considerations of Care Transitions for Persons with Dementia

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Purpose: Dementia is the most common form of cognitive impairment in older adults. Persons with dementia and their informal, family caregivers pose unique challenges as they move across sites of care. This movement across care sites and care providers results in adverse events and poor patient outcomes; yet, the concept of 'care transitions' for this vulnerable population is not well understood by clinicians.

Theoretical Framework: Principle-based concept analysis.

Methods: To gain a greater understanding of the concept of care transitions for persons with dementia a principle-based concept analysis was conducted using the four analytic principles based in the philosophy of science: epistemological, pragmatic, linguistic, and logical. A systematic search was conducted in PubMed, CINAHL, and ProQuest using the search term 'care transition'.

Results: A total of 814 articles were yielded, after review a total of 74 articles were included in this concept analysis. Findings revealed that 'care transitions' for persons with dementia are poorly defined and differentiated the literature from other concepts, such as transitional care or patient hand-offs. Care transitions increase the risk for adverse events such as medication errors and the risk for delirium in older adults with dementia; resulting in higher psychosocial and financial healthcare costs.

Conclusions and Implications: Care transitions for persons with dementia have a much larger breadth than originally described in research, including the introduction of new environmental stimuli. Further defining the concept of care transitions will allow for the development of tailored interventions for persons with dementia and their informal, family caregivers.