Evaluating the Appropriate Use of Psychotropic Medications with Older Adults

Because of the known potential risks associated with the use of the psychotropic medications in elderly clients and the common practice of using these medications to manage psychiatric symptoms and behavior in inpatient psychiatric settings, research is needed to investigate their use. The purpose of this study is to examine the prevalence and documented outcomes of the use of the psychotropic medications with older adults hospitalized in acute care psychiatric settings. This study will also examine the use of nonpharmacologic nursing interventions utilized with older adults hospitalized in acute care psychiatric settings. Data will be collected at two different Geropsychiatric units located in medical centers in the Midwest. This pilot study will use a descriptive retrospective design involving chart reviews. Focus groups will also be conducted with nursing staff at both units. Specific aims of the proposed study are: 1. To describe the prevalence and type of routine psychotropic medication administration with older adults in acute care Geropsychiatric settings. 2. To describe the prevalence and type of PRN Psychotropic medications ordered and administered with older adults in Geropsychiatric settings. 3. To describe the route, time of day, reason for administration, and response to PRN psychotropic medications administered. 4. To describe the documented reasons for administration of and documented response of PRN psychotropic medications. 5. To describe the use of nonpharmacologic nursing interventions with older adults in Geropsychiatric settings. Descriptive statistics will be reported using means, frequencies, and percentages. The content and themes of focus group responses will be reported in a narrative format.