

Abstract:**Introduction:**

Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) is a patient survey used to allow for comparison between hospitals and includes a section on communication about medications. The purpose of this study is to assess the use of disease-state specific counseling handouts to assist with medication education.

Methods:

The study was conducted on two telemetry units in a community-teaching hospital. A handout over common medications for Atrial Fibrillation was created, along with an updated version of a Heart Failure medication handout. The primary outcome assessed was RN survey results regarding perceptions on medication counseling and utility of the provided medication education handouts. The secondary outcome assessed was HCAHPS survey results for medication counseling.

Results:

The overall opinion was that the handouts were well designed/adequate, as well as helpful, with 78.5% agreeing or strongly agreeing. The most common reason for not using the handouts was forgotten availability (82.7%). Most nurses felt that the patients were receptive to the use of the handouts with 57.1% agreeing or strongly agreeing. HCAHPS scores were similar in two months pre- and post- handout distribution (55.3% versus 54.6%, p value= 0.157).

Conclusion:

Nurses encounter many barriers to performing meaningful medication counseling during hospitalization. Disease-state specific medication handouts can be helpful to facilitate counseling; however, adequate promotion of the materials is essential for success. Further improvement and tool development is needed to improve the medication education provided by nurses and other health care professionals.