

Research Priorities in Post-Acute and Long-Term Care: Results of a Stakeholder Needs Assessment

Drake et al. (2019)

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

post-acute and long-term care

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

North America - USA

Why was it conducted at all?

Post-acute and long-term care (PA-LTC) in nursing homes is a highly variable clinical environment serving a vulnerable patient population. The medical complexity of PA-LTC patients, unique ethical issues, and methodological barriers contribute to the exclusion of nursing home residents in research and limit the study of important clinical questions.^{1e3} However, improving research is part of a long standing effort to improve the quality of care in PA-LTC. During a 12-month CCTSI partnership development pilot grant, Colorado Medical Directors' Association and University of Colorado formed a community-academic partnership and conducted a comprehensive needs assessment to identify the research priorities of PA-LTC stakeholder groups and barriers to research participation.

What was the objective?

to identify research topics of highest priority among diverse post-acute and long-term care stakeholders and to collect stakeholder perspectives on research, including concerns/barriers that stymie research engagement in the post-acute and long-term care setting

What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 14 research topics

How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

focus group; interview; survey

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: survey with providers: exploring providers' experience with and attitudes towards research plus statements on the nursing home environment as a research setting. Step 2: focus groups with frontline staff: exploring previous experience with research in their facility, research priorities, and issues specific to PA-LTC that make research difficult. Step 3: interviews with administrative leadership. Step 4: focus groups with residents and family members, all interview and focus group participants were asked: Do you believe research benefits individuals? Groups of individuals? Have you participated in a research project at your facility? Can you describe the experience?. Step 5: data processing: content analysis: PA-LTC research priorities and barriers/concerns of implementing research projects in PA-LTC facilities

Which stakeholders took part?

Survey: 89 medical directors/providers. Focus groups: 17 frontline staff members. Interviews: 5 administrative leadership members. Focus groups: 11 family members of residents and residents themselves.

How were stakeholders recruited?

The initial stakeholder groups identified by the partnership were medical directors, directors of nursing and administrators, frontline nursing staff, residents, and caregivers. Additional positions were identified iteratively (e.g., social workers and activity directors).

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.