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Abstract - Master Thesis Project, the Pharmacy Programme

Correct medication with secure management in the transition of care and at the medicine department for improved patient safety

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Objective: The aims were to survey the drug use among elderly in community care and improve the security when patients are transferred between hospital and community care.

Method: Patients 80 years and older, on five or more medications, admitted to the medication department who came from community nursing homes or were in need of home nursing were included. Pharmaceutical medication reviews were made for all included patients. Comparisons between groups with or without multiple-dose drug dispensing (MDDD) were made. Existing routines regarding medication in the transition of care were surveyed and improvements were suggested.

Results: Included patients with MDDD, 34 individuals, used on average 11.5 drugs, 9.2 continuously and 2.4 on demand. Patients without MDDD, 15 individuals, used 9.5 drugs, 7.9 continuously and 1.6 on demand. The most common error was drugs without indication, found in 26 and 13 cases respectively. Potentially inappropriate drugs were found in 14 cases in the MDDD-group and in 6 cases in the group without MDDD. C- or D-interactions occurred in 14 and 7 cases respectively. Inappropriate dosing existed in 2 and 3 cases respectively. Three or more psychotropics were only found in the MDDD-group. No statistically significant differences between the groups were seen. A written routine for secure management of medication in the transition of care will be implemented and a medication report will be included in the upcoming medical records system.

Conclusion: Inappropriate medication is common among elderly. Further effort to achieve secure management of drugs in the transition of care is needed.