

Making Medicines Manageable: A culturally and linguistically diverse perspective

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Reference: Duane, F., C. While, C. Beanland and S. Koch (2011). Making Medicines Manageable: A culturally and linguistically diverse perspective. Melbourne: Royal District Nursing Service.

Key Words:

managing medicine, CALD older people, informal care

Research aim:

The aim of this study was to develop an understanding of the experiences of non-English speaking older people and family carers in managing their own or a relative's medicines.

Results/Conclusion:

Findings from this study include: • Family members often assist in establishing relationships with a GP who can speak the older person's language. • Having a GP who can speak an older person's language is the primary way of overcoming language barriers and obtaining medicine-related information. • The individual's literacy level and their preference regarding the amount and format of information they wish to be given (for example, verbal or written) should be considered. • There is a need for awareness and access to interpreters; and translated medicines information in a variety of formats. • There is a need to include the people involved within the 'network' or 'team' supporting non-English speaking older people with their medicines; and promote their role and communication with other people in the support network.

Implications:

The findings of this study complement the journey of medication management described by While et al. (2011), showing that for non-English speaking CALD people this journey is longer and more complex than for the general older population.

Cultural Group(s):

Croatian, Chinese, Greek, Vietnamese, Italian, Macedonian

Location of study:

Age group:

older people aged 65+ (carers no age restriction)

Number included in study:

12 older people, 10 carers

Type of participants:

12 older people who do not speak English, 10 carers who do not speak English

Research approach:

Qualitative

Type of data:

Primary

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: