

CZH/4/1113 - Sensory Impairment and Pharmaceutical Care: What are the needs of older people receiving Polypharmacy?

The number of older people (>65 years) who have sensory impairment (visual and/or hearing loss) is increasing. Future increases are anticipated due to the ageing population. Sensory impairment is associated with higher risk of death and reduced quality of life. Older people often have multiple health conditions which are managed by medicines. Medicine management can be difficult for older people and when combined with sensory impairment, visual and/or hearing, these difficulties are exacerbated. Despite the magnitude of this problem, there has been little exploration of the needs of older people with sensory impairment regarding their medicines management and how personnel in community pharmacies could help i.e. provide person-centred pharmaceutical care. This study seeks to explore older people's needs for and experiences of pharmaceutical care and will generate information which will be used to develop future community pharmacy services to provide effective pharmaceutical care for older people with sensory loss.