

Health Services Research (HSR) Seminar

Department of Public Health Sciences

“Impact of Nursing Home Palliative Care Teams on End-of-Life Outcomes: A Randomized Controlled Trial”



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Deficits in end-of-life (EOL) care in nursing homes (NHs) have been reported, but the impact of NH-based palliative care teams (PCTeam) on resident outcomes has been largely unstudied and untested. We conducted a randomized controlled trial (RCT), funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), to examine the efficacy of NH PCTeams on EOL outcomes. We hypothesized that residents in facilities with PCTeams experience better EOL quality.

We developed four risk-adjusted quality measures (QMs) to evaluate the impact of PCTeams: place of death (NH vs. hospital); number of hospitalizations; self-reported moderate-to-severe pain, and depressive symptoms, all within 90 days of death. The Minimum Data Set (MDS) was used to develop the QMs and the risk factors, and Vital Status data to ascertain the date of death. To understand barriers and challenges staff may have experienced during the intervention, we conducted in-depth interviews and field observations in all treatment NHs. We estimated separate difference-in-difference (DID) models, one for each QM. We employed logistic and Poisson regression models, including random effects to account for patient clustering. The outcome analyses (based on the 4 QMs) included two control groups: facilities recruited for the RCT and randomized to the control arm, and all other NYS facilities that did not participate in the study.

**Friday, April 14, 2017
Helen Wood Hall 1W-501
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm**