Calculation of descriptive statistics for comparison of residents
Study results
The "Strengthening a Palliative Approach to Care" (SPA)
Content analysis of interview data
Earlier timing (n=1)
8(53)
Family recommendations included earlier timing and physician
L
38.3(8.9)
Bollig
9(100)
Bravo
Overall, family members perceived FCCs as beneficial supporting the
Parker
Results may assist staff in allocating time and resources for EOL
46.2(13.9)
of
Mean
Male
Participant suggestions gained from interviews can
Difficulty prognosticating
score at FCC
22(92)
Comorbidity
2 weeks
Few long
Barriers to communication may include
9 (1.38)
A qualitative study.
2.5(0.7)
0.4(0.6)
50
Journal of the American Geriatrics Society,
6.7(3.2)
8.75 (1.15)
Kaasalainen
2.5(0.7)
8.75 (1.15)

Background

➢ Few long term care (LTC) homes follow a systematic process to identify residents and communicate with families at end of life (EOL): 1,3
➢ Barriers to communication may include: 1
➢ Limited resources
➢ Difficulty prognosticating
➢ The "Strengthening a Palliative Approach to Care" (SPA-LTC) program examined Family Care Conferences (FCC) for residents nearing EOL as a way to support communication between staff and families 4, 5, 6.

Purpose

Sub-study to explore:
1. Characteristics of residents who had FCCs compared to those who did not
2. Family perceptions of FCCs through a mixed methods approach

Methods

➢ Calculation of descriptive statistics for comparison of residents 2
➢ Structured interviews with family members who participated in FCCs
➢ Content analysis of interview data

Results: Characteristics of Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resident Characteristics</th>
<th>FCC (n = 24)</th>
<th>No FCC (n = 15)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N = 39</td>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>9 (38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>15 (63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean age (years)</td>
<td></td>
<td>86.09(1.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time in LTC (years)</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.7(2.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dementia diagnosis</td>
<td></td>
<td>22 (92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlson Comorbidity 8</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.8(2.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalized (past year)</td>
<td></td>
<td>8 (33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalizations per resident (past year)</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.7(1.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPS score at FCC 9</td>
<td></td>
<td>38.3(8.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time from FCC to Death (weeks)</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.1(1.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deceased</td>
<td></td>
<td>9 (38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of Death Hospital of Death</td>
<td></td>
<td>0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTC</td>
<td></td>
<td>9(100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21(100)</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Comparison of Resident Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>FCC</th>
<th>No FCC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dementia Diagnosis</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPS less than 30</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlson Comorbidity Index &gt; 5</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalizations in the past year</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results: Family Perceptions of FCCs

Eight families who participated in an FCC participated in structured interviews
Family quotes:
"...we discussed what measures would be taking place and what wouldn’t be taken... the physician was very positive...kind of helped put things more into perspective...I feel quite comfortable." (Site )
"The quality of my experience was great. I feel like everybody knows what’s going to happen when it starts to happen, and there’s comfort in that, and what will be a terrible and difficult time will be less terrible and difficult because we all know what she wants.” (Site )
"It’s helpful to know what’s going on with him.” (Site )

Family recommendations:
➢ Earlier timing (n=1)
➢ Physician presence (n=1)

Conclusions and Implications

➢ Families of residents with specific characteristics (e.g. dementia diagnosis) may have increased need for communication or acceptance of FCCs at EOL
➢ Results may assist staff in allocating time and resources for EOL communication to residents and families
➢ Study results align with evidence that efficient communication with staff can particularly benefit family caregivers of people with dementia who struggle to make decisions for their loved one10
➢ Participant suggestions gained from interviews can contribute to tailoring FCCs
➢ Analysis of resident characteristics should be repeated in future studies to confirm findings

References