NIA IMPACT COLLABORATORY
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Pilot Study Snapshot

Implementation of a Telehealth Palliative Care Model for Persons with Dementia

Principal Investigator
Joan Carpenter, PhD, CRNP
University of Maryland School of Nursing

Health Care System

- Providence Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center

"Shifting post-acute care in nursing homes for people living with dementia to a person-centered model with an evidence-based practice to enhance quality of life, improve communication, and promote goal-directed care."

RATIONALE: People living with dementia (PLWD) receiving post-acute care in nursing homes (NHs) often receive treatments focused on intense rehabilitation and/or aggressive, disease-focused therapies. This has profound implications for quality of life and end-of-life experiences of PLWD. Palliative care consultation offers an evidence-based alternative for PLWD; it increases advance care planning, improves patient and care partner satisfaction, and reduces costs and acute care use.

OBJECTIVE: The evidence-based Nurse Practitioner (NP)-delivered telehealth Palliative Care Consultation in Post-Acute Care (PCC-PAC) intervention is a multi-component non-pharmacologic, NP-delivered intervention designed to meet the needs of PLWD receiving post-acute care in NHs. This pilot study for an embedded pragmatic clinical trial (ePCT) will assess the implementation outcomes including fidelity of the telehealth PCC-PAC intervention in PLWD and their care partners.

SETTING: One nursing home located in the northeast United States.

POPULATION: PLWD and their care partners newly admitted to NHs for post-acute care following a recent hospitalization.

DESIGN: Single arm pilot study for an ePCT.

OUTCOMES: The acceptability, appropriateness, and NP and NH fidelity to the telehealth delivered PCC-PAC.

IMPACT: Embedding complex interventions in NHs is challenging and requires addressing barriers to adopting new practices as well as effective implementation. Findings from this study will immediately inform refinements of the telehealth PCC-PAC and prepare the team for testing the PCC-PAC in a large-scale effectiveness/implementation cluster, randomized ePCT.