**PICOT Question**

Adult 70 years and older diagnosed with wound infection, admitted at Virginia Hospital Center, does educating the patients’ home caregivers on wound care management help prevent hospital re-admission due to wound complications compared to transitional post-hospital in-home care services, prevent hospital readmission within a 6-week period?

**PICOT Table**

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| **P** (Population) | Adult 70 years and older diagnosed with wound infection, admitted at Virginia Hospital Center.  Older people (aged 70 years and above) have low immunity, which may lower their healing process. Therefore, wound healing among older people is slow, especially to those with underlying health conditions like diabetes. According to Vowden & Vowden (2017). Older patients may experience slower wound healing than the younger people. As individuals grow old, they experience physiological changes which might lower their healing process.  Usually, older people experience bodily transformations, which are significantly out of their control. Older people have reduced skin elasticity, and this delays their wound healing. Their wounds can continue to pose serious health issues to them and necessitate them to seek hospital readmission. |
| **I** (Intervention) | Educating the patients’ home caregivers on wound care management.  Due to lack of adequate care in their homes, wound patients released from hospital may end being readmitted. Home caregivers such as relatives of patients with wounds often do not have sufficient knowledge and skills to take care of the patients’ health in their homes. Infections may occur when patients are at home. Patients are being readmitted for various infections. There are no appropriate healthcare policies which enhance healthcare services to patients in homes. Patients with wounds are taken to hospitals when their conditions have deteriorated. The deterioration of health conditions of patients, therefore, occurs when they are out of the healthcare facility.  Human caring at homes should be centered on the caring-to-caring transpersonal relationship, and it can lead to healing for both the caregiver and care recipient (Watson et al., 2010). Therefore, educating home caregivers on wound care management can go a long way in giving them skills and knowledge to effectively take care of patients with wounds. The home caregivers should be in a position to empathize with the care recipients to ensure that they offer them compassion, kindness, and hope to enhance their outcomes. |
| **C** (Comparison) | Transitional post-hospital in-home care services.  Transitional home care is the care offered to patients at their home after being hospitalized (Naylor et al., 2014). It is the period a patient leaves a health facility to be attended by professional caregivers at home. When a patient leaves a nursing facility and proceeds to their home, they can encounter some critical health and social problems. However, these problems can be prevented when professional care is delivered to the patients at their homes. For elderly patients diagnosed with wound infection, transitional home care can decrease unintended outcomes such as re-hospitalization, falls, and medication errors. Furthermore, appropriate transitional home care can also reduce long-term health burdens/costs by assisting to curb the worsening of health conditions. |
| **O** (Outcome) | Prevent hospital re-admission due to wound complications.  Hospital readmissions of patients with wound infections are common issues which face individuals that have undergone surgery or other forms of treatment in hospitals. Readmission of patients is frequent due to diseases and illnesses such as worsening of wound infections. Usually, when patients are treated on their wounds, they leave from hospital with the expectation that they will heal completely. In the United States, 15% of Medicare beneficiaries are diagnosed with at least one form of wound infection (Yim et al., 2014). The government is spending a lot of money to set up healthcare infrastructures. The healthcare facilities, such as hospitals continue to be overburdened by an increased rate of hospital readmission of patients with wounds. Healthcare professionals face a huge challenge in catering to the needs of an increased number of patients. |
| **T** (Time) | Within 6-weeks period.  Infection may build up after a surgery which involves cut in the skin. Usually, surgical infection manifests within the first 30 days after the surgery has been performed (Moore et al., 2014). Wound infections which occur after surgery may have pus and are painful. An individual with surgical wound infection may experience a fever and general body weakness. The germs which are on the skin of a patient may affect the surgical cut, which would result in the development of wound. |

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