

More Hands on Deck?

Developing a Dementia Decision Support Tool for Care Partners

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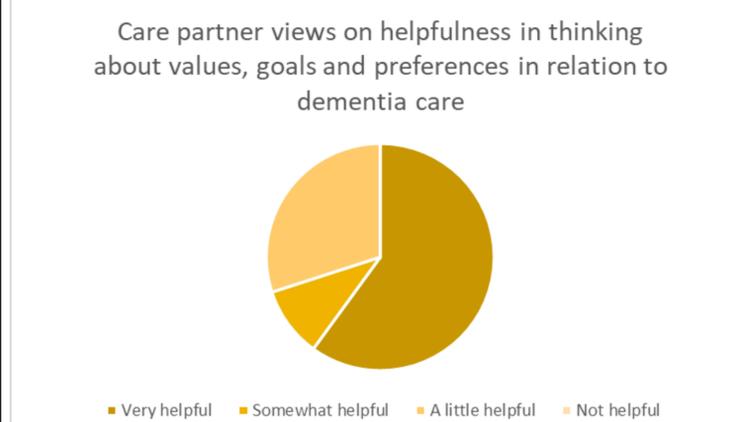
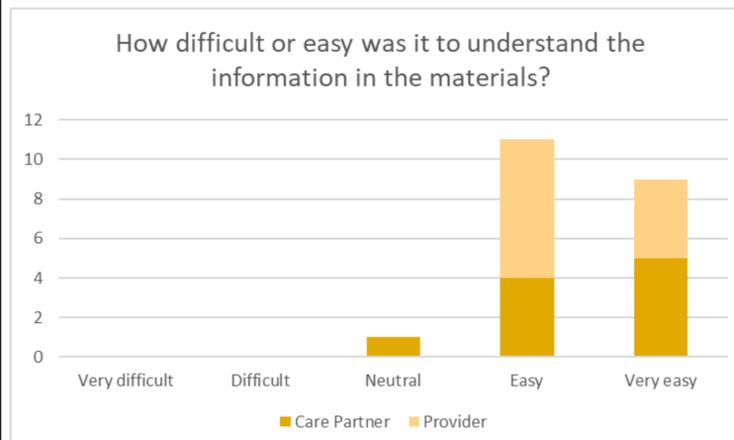
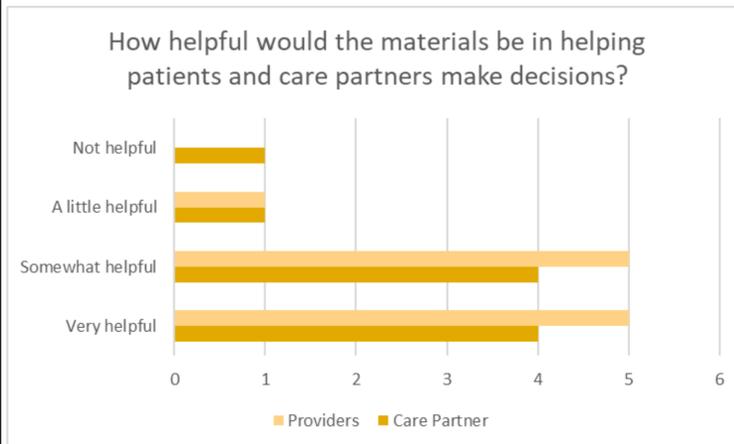
Background

- For care partners of persons with dementia, decisions about care needs can be challenging.
- There is a need for decision support tools to help patients, care partners and providers anticipate care needs.
- We assessed geriatric team and care partner feedback on a dementia decision support tool.

Methods

- Recruited multidisciplinary geriatric staff and care partners of persons with dementia.
- Surveys assessed acceptability and usability of the decision support tool.
- Semi-structured interviews of providers focused on barriers to dementia-related decision making and feedback on the tool.
- Qualitative analysis used team-based thematic analysis.

Results



Thematic Analysis – Preliminary Data

Theme	Quote
<i>Anticipated Outcomes</i>	“As I went through this, I thought, “Gosh, this is just a great thing.” And if it’s even like I said, be disseminated even further for not necessarily somebody that has dementia or has a parent with dementia right now. But like I said, I think all of us at some point are going to have to look at this kind of thing and financially figure out what impact that’s going to be” (Care Partner)
<i>Limitations</i>	“It says a lot of things that go into the decision, but if people are far along in their decision this would not be helpful.” (Provider)
<i>Perceived Value in Primary Care</i>	“I really liked the specific examples, because it allows people to think through why we would make either choice, and how either choices are reasonable and thoughtful. I think sometimes people feel like, when you put your loved one into a nursing home that you are, that you like don’t care, essentially. Which is not the case, but I think sometimes people feel that way.” (Provider)
<i>Reactions</i>	“Early on, I think some of my patients would find this useful, like when you look at the stages of dementia and honestly people don’t like to think about those in terms of their own progression.” (Provider)

Conclusions

- Providers and care partners perceived the proposed dementia support tool as acceptable.
- Many reported the tool may be useful to reduce current gaps in care planning.
- Further evaluation of the dementia support tool including interviews with care partners, and with a larger, racially and ethnically diverse sample is warranted.

Implications

- Dementia support tools may fill an existing gap in care planning for providers, care partners and persons with dementia
- Further efforts to develop and implement dementia support tools into clinical care are needed

Disclosures

None