



A Pause for Reflection and Acknowledgement

Ana Tuya Fulton, MD

The column first ran in January of 2007. From the vantage of July 2009, the editor, authors and sponsors would like to reflect on the past, acknowledge the present and speculate about the future. We envisioned the column as a vehicle to share resources and knowledge to help all practitioners care for the often complicated and challenging older adult population. The format developed as a case-based discussion on clinically relevant topic areas in geriatrics care, accompanied by a variety of scholarly resources and web-based tools. Topics varied, ranging from basic geriatric assessment and management to disease-specific discussions. (Table).

Column authorship varied as much, including pieces written by senior academic geriatricians, junior faculty, geriatrics fellows in training, residents, nurse practitioners and other health professionals. The unifying theme has always been a strong desire to improve the awareness of geriatrics issues and to provide all practitioners with knowledge and tools they need to care for older persons. The expanding senior population has become too large for the fewer than 10,000 geriatricians to provide much of the primary care for older adults. Accordingly, most providers share both in the responsibility of providing their care and acquiring basic competencies for this care of older persons. This perspective remains the underlying goal and premise for the column. We hope the column's tools and knowledge are useful, and that it piques your curiosity to learn more about the nuances of care for the older patient.

Now, after 25 monthly columns and one entire issue devoted to patients in nursing homes, the time has come to reassess your needs. Please contact the editor with your recommendations for topics, areas of interest, criticisms and format changes, or just to offer feedback. In addition, a formal needs assessment survey accompanies this column; please help us by completing this five-minute survey. We welcome your submission; contact the editor to inquire about your area of interest or the experiences you might like to share.

Most importantly, we would like to thank all of our supporters. You, for your readership and the feedback you have already given. Thanks also to all of our contributors, who have submitted articles, and those who have taken the time

to edit and review. Finally, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) whose support through Quality Partners of Rhode Island (QPRI), the Medicare quality improvement organization for Rhode Island, have provided the funding permitting monthly publication of the column. These articles have fostered better, safer and timelier care of our older adults, along the themes of the prior 8th and current 9th scope of work QPRI does under contract with CMS. We take pride in this partnership toward bringing better care to Rhode Island's elders.

Table 1. RI Medicine & Health Geriatrics for the Practicing Physician Publications

Publication Date	Topic
January 2007	Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment
February 2007	Medication Management
March 2007	Falls
April 2007	Transitions of Care
May 2007	Palliative Care & Hospice in Nursing Homes
June 2007	Insomnia
July 2007	Nursing home edition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Culture Change - Medical Director Role - Transitions of Care - Infections - "Big hitter" issues
August 2007	Elder Abuse
September 2007	Chronic Dizziness
October 2007	Osteoporosis and Vitamin D deficiency
December 2007	Hypoactive Delirium
January 2008	Use of PEG tubes in Alzheimer's
February 2008	Nutrition and Failure to Thrive
March 2008	Home Visits
April 2008	Hospice Referral Indications
June 2008	Clinical Case Series
August 2008	Reynolds Grant Progress Article
September 2008	Hospital Transitions of Care
October 2008	Sex in the Older Adult
November 2008	Determination of Prognosis
December 2008	Pressure Ulcer Diagnosis, Staging, Risks
January 2009	Pressure Ulcer Treatment
February 2009	Cancer Screening
March 2009	Caregiver Stress
April 2009	Anticoagulation and Atrial Fibrillation
May 2009	Dementia & Behavioral Disturbances
June 2009	Depression in the Older Adult
July 2009	Hip Fracture Management

To better highlight this support, future columns will provide linkage to ongoing quality and safety projects being undertaken by QPRI, and whenever possible, resources used in these projects will be made available. Broad areas of intersection include patient safety, improving care transitions, and chronic disease management models. The goal is to highlight quality initiatives being undertaken, while providing clinically relevant topic reviews. Quality and patient safety have become a major focus for the practice of medicine and among accrediting organizations. All hospitals and practitioners are being challenged to adhere to new standards and further improve quality. We hope to add to the utility of the column by these linkages.

It is the hope of the Division of Geriatrics at the Warren Alpert School of Medicine of Brown University, QPRI, and the editor to continue for at least another year or two, and to continue bringing useful, practical information to busy clinicians. Thank you for your readership and please continue to share your feedback with the editor and authors.

To learn more about the work being done at QPRI please visit <http://www.riqualitypartners.org/>.

Please take a minute to participate in our needs assessment survey to evaluate the column's utility and future topics of interest. This survey should take no more than five minutes. Your participation is appreciated.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=C3dkxk739KPF_2fqgWek2eg_3d_3d

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9SOW-RI-GERIATRICS-102009

THE ANALYSES UPON WHICH THIS PUBLICATION IS BASED were performed under Contract Number 500-02-RI02, funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. The author assumes full responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the ideas presented.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)		Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation	
1. Publication Title MEDICINE & HEALTH / RHODE ISLAND		2. Issue Date August 2009	
3. Issue Frequency MONTHLY		4. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below August 5, 2009	
5. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state and ZIP+4) RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY 250 PRINCETON AVE SUITE 500 PROVIDENCE RI 02906		6. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 250 PRINCETON AVE SUITE 500 PROVIDENCE RI 02906	
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