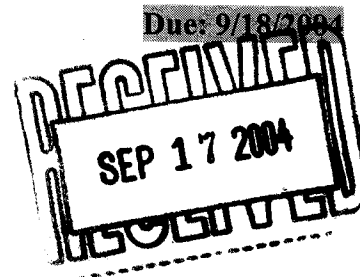


NURSING RESEARCH REVIEW FORM
1st Review

Due: 9/18/2004



Manuscript # 2004/148
Manuscript title: Clinical outcomes of aging in place
Manuscript type: Regular
Number of text pgs.: 13
Number of figures: 1
Number of tables: 2
Reviewer: Linda Hollinger-Smith
Stat reviewer assigned?: No -- do you recommend a stat reviewer?

Please evaluate the following with these choices: (1) adequate, (2) inadequate (describe in written review) or (3) not appropriate (describe in written review)

Problem statement: 1
Attention to relevant literature: 1
Theoretical framework: 2
Research design: 1
Data analysis: 2
Discussion of results: 1
Organization: 1
Writing style: 1

Please rate the following topics 1-5 (with 5 being the highest rating):

Value of topic: 4
Probable reader interest in topic: 4
Importance of present contribution to nursing: 4
Priority of topic for publication: 4
Rank this manuscript for its value: 4

Reviewer's Recommendation (please type "X" after your choice):

Accept without revisions
Accept with revisions X
Maybe accept with revisions
Do not accept

Comments for Editor only:

Please provide a comprehensive and integrated review of this manuscript.
Be sure to present a balanced view of the manuscript's strengths and weaknesses.

Problem Statement. This quasi-experimental study focused on comparing clinical outcomes of older adults who received home care services through an "aging in place" model compared to those in nursing homes. I would suggest moving up the problem statement/purpose earlier in the manuscript – we do not see it until page 6. That would give focus to the literature review and help build the case for the study.

Literature Review. The literature review was comprehensive and well done. Supporting the proposed study to a great extent, the review described the clinical and financial issues faced by the growing numbers of older adults and families who are often torn between community-based or institutional long-term care for loved ones. Primary sources are current and support the study's premises to a great extent. For studies that present clinical implications to support community-based care (pp. 4-5), I would have liked to have seen references to sample size and statistical significant differences as appropriate. There is a reference (Frytak, Kane, et al, 2001) p. 5, line 24 that is unclear in its interpretation. Noting that no differences between assisted living and nursing home residents on selected outcome measures suggested that "low level" of care did not impact outcomes (i.e., were they matched at baseline?). In reality, assisted living residents require less physical care having greater ADL abilities than nursing home residents, so the conclusion expressed needs to be revised. I would also liked to have seen reference to how the particular outcome measures were selected. This would be valuable to readers not experienced in the field of aging.

Theoretical Framework. There is no indication that the study was based on a theoretical framework. There is no conceptual framework to relate variables of interest to proposed outcomes or relationships. This might strengthen the support for selecting the outcome variables as noted above.

Research Design. The study design is described as quasi-experimental with matching subjects on key variables. This is a strength of the study design. A brief explanation why matching was done within a range of scores may be helpful. Also, indicate if the nursing home residents were from one or multiple sites.

Variables of interest are described in detail including psychometrics. Although cost effectiveness of the program was not part of this study, an important variable not addressed that may have influenced the outcomes was the number of hours of RN time per patient day. The intensity of the RN involvement in the AIP program as compared to the typical number of hours of RN time per nursing home resident may have significantly impacted the study outcomes. This needs to be addressed either with data or as a major study limitation.

Data Analysis/Discussion of Results: The researcher indicates (p. 9, line 20) that MDS data were collected every 6 months on all AIP participants which makes it appear that all participated for 30 months. On p. 11 line 24, it appears that there were "rolling" admissions to the study. Table 2 does not adequately address both time of entry and attrition of the subjects. For example under cognition in Table 2, were the 16 at 24 months from the 78 at baseline or did they include later entries? On p. 11 line 20, the range of subject ages were 72 to 94 with a mean of 72 – is that a typo given standard deviations of 10.9 and 10.6? Regarding those AIP subjects who dropped from the group (p. 12, lines 3 & 4), were these subjects different from those who remained in the AIP group? There was a high attrition rate in the nursing home group, but no reasons were provided. Scores for cognition, ADLs and depression on Table 2 do not seem to match with the ranges provided in the narrative (p. 10). For example, the range of ADL scores was 0-20 per the narrative, but in Table 2, the highest score was 3.2 for nursing home residents. Did the researcher average the total scores (but the standard deviations appear to be for the total scores given they are larger than the mean scores). Discussion of results was clear and addressed the initial purpose of the study. I would have also been interested if the researchers examined the role of social support as a mediating factor in AIP results.

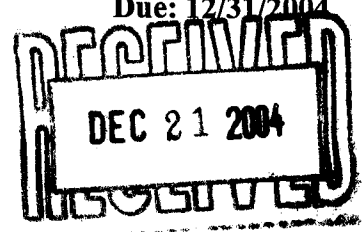
Organization. Organization of the manuscript was very good.

Style of Presentation. The manuscript was well written and followed APA guidelines.

Rev 2

NURSING RESEARCH REVIEW FORM
2nd Review

Due: 12/31/2004



Manuscript #: 2004/148
Manuscript title: Clinical outcomes of aging in place
Manuscript type: Regular
Number of text pgs: 13
Number of figures: 2
Number of tables: 3
Reviewer: Linda Hollinger-Smith

Please evaluate the following with these choices: (1) adequate, (2) inadequate (describe in written review) or (3) not appropriate (describe in written review)

Problem statement: 1
Attention to relevant literature: 1
Theoretical framework: 1
Research design: 1
Data analysis: 1
Discussion of results: 1
Organization: 1
Writing style: 1

Please rate the following topics 1-5 (with 5 being the highest rating):

Value of topic: 5
Probable reader interest in topic: 4
Importance of present contribution to nursing: 5
Priority of topic for publication: 5
Rank this manuscript for its value: 5

Reviewer's Recommendation (please type "X" after your choice):

Accept without revisions X
Accept with revisions
Maybe accept with revisions
Do not accept

Comments for Editor only:

Please provide a comprehensive and integrated review of this manuscript.
Be sure to present a balanced view of the manuscript's strengths and weaknesses.

Rev 2

Manuscript 2004/148. Clinical outcomes of aging in place (Second review)

Problem Statement. This quasi-experimental study focused on comparing clinical outcomes of older adults who received home care services through an "aging in place" model compared to those in nursing homes. Purpose of the manuscript is clearly addressed in the beginning of the paper.

Literature Review. The literature review was comprehensive and well done. Supporting the proposed study to a great extent, the review described the clinical and financial issues faced by the growing numbers of older adults and families who are often torn between community-based or institutional long-term care for loved ones. Primary sources are current and support the study's premises to a great extent. The author has addressed the concerns regarding references to significant findings in cited studies. Also, the author strengthened this section by building the case for the current study based on existing literature. This also clarified how study variables were selected.

Theoretical Framework. The author addressed concerns by adding discussion of a theoretical framework based on the MOS studies and Donabedian's Quality Assessment Model. This strengthened the support for selecting the outcome variables.

Research Design. The study design is described as quasi-experimental with matching subjects on key variables. This is a strength of the study design. The author provided an explanation of matching procedures and expanded on the discussion of enrollment procedures.

Variables of interest are described in detail including psychometrics. The author provided needed clarification of outcome scores with ranges. There is also additional explanation of the intervention which strengthens this section.

Data Analysis/Discussion of Results: The author clarifies concerns regarding attrition with clear explanations of how attrition related to enrollment. The attrition table is an excellent addition and clarifies the complexity of this study's sampling procedures. Added figures on the evaluation framework and graphs showing changes in variables over time clearly highlight narrative discussions of the results. Overall, the author did an excellent job of addressing all the initial concerns of this reviewer.

Organization. Organization of the manuscript was very good.

Style of Presentation. The manuscript was well written and followed APA guidelines.