

The ASCP Foundation: Identifying Medication-Related Problems in Older Adults with Monitor-Rx

The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) Foundation was one of five grantees that received a Medication Optimization Diffusion Grants Program award from the Center for Technology and Aging in January 2010. The \$93 thousand grant has enabled the ASCP Foundation to accelerate diffusion of Monitor-Rx, a clinical tool that helps pharmacists and others to better identify medication-related problems in older adults.

Identifying whether an older person's medications are causing or exacerbating cognitive decline, frequent falling, and other problems can be a real challenge. Older adults experience a greater number of medication side effects and many older adults take multiple prescription and non-prescription medications—nearly 40% take five or more medications per week and 12% take ten or more.

Monitor-Rx, a unique web-based clinical tool, helps clinicians examine an individual's medication regimen and identify medications that may cause, aggravate, or contribute to common geriatric conditions. Such a tool is especially valuable when a person's medication regimen is large and complex.

The ASCP Foundation's project is utilizing Monitor-Rx to optimize the medication regimens of older adults in three California sites that provide comprehensive pharmacist services. According to ASCP Foundation Executive

Director Lisa Gables, "Monitor-Rx has been in development for more than a decade, evolving from a stand-alone software program to its current Web-based format. This grant project is providing an excellent opportunity to demonstrate its effectiveness in diverse clinical practice sites serving older adults, which we believe will lead to replication in other sites." Janice L. Feinberg, PharmD, JD, is Research Director at the ASCP Foundation and is coordinating all project activities under the grant. Feinberg was instrumental in the development of the MDS Med-Guide and Geriatric Risk Assessment Med Guide (GRAM), precursors to the web-based Monitor-Rx.

Monitor-Rx (Monitor-Rx.com) is a joint venture of the ASCP Foundation and the Interactive Aging Network (IANet.org), a non-profit consultancy that supports national aging services organizations,



Janice L. Feinberg, PharmD, JD, Research Director at the ASCP Foundation and Project Coordinator of the Center-funded "Medication Optimization using Monitor-Rx"

foundations, and government agencies in the use of information technology to enhance programs and expand services. Rey Muradaz, Chief Technology Officer of IANet and consultant in the development of the Monitor-Rx technology, is providing technical support to implement Monitor-Rx at the project sites.

Project Collaborators

ASCP Foundation

The ASCP Foundation (ascpfoundation.org) is the research and education affiliate of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists. Its mission is to improve the health and well-being of older persons through appropriate, effective, and safe medication use. The ASCP Foundation provides leadership, innovation, and expertise in medicines and aging to seniors and those who care for them. The unique focus of the ASCP Foundation is the development, integration, and application of knowledge regarding medication use in the senior population and the practice of senior care pharmacy to optimize health care outcomes.

Interactive Aging Network

The Interactive Aging Network (ianet.org) is a non-profit, strategic consultancy that is dedicated to helping aging services

organizations realize their full potential. IANet helps clients understand how information technology can streamline operations, enhance programs, and expand services and, when effectively used, can simplify communication, stimulate shared learning, and provide an evidentiary base for ongoing improvement activities. Among its achievements is the National Council on Aging's BenefitsCheckUp.org initiative, a decision support service to determine a user's potential eligibility in over 1,300 benefit programs throughout the nation.

The Center for Technology and Aging

The Center for Technology and Aging (techandaging.org) supports more rapid adoption and diffusion of technologies that enhance independence and improve home and community-based care for older adults. Through grants, research, public policy involvement and development of practical tools and best practice guidelines, the Center serves as an independent, non-profit resource for improving the quality and cost-effectiveness of long-term care services. The Center was established with funding from The SCAN Foundation (thescanfoundation.org) and is affiliated with the Public Health Institute (phi.org) in Oakland, CA.

Monitor-Rx

The screenshot shows the Monitor-Rx web application interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, Drug Lookup, Prescriber Education, Reports, FAQ, and My Profile. Below the navigation is a search form with fields for First Name, Last Name, and ID, along with Search and Clear Search buttons. Underneath the search form are tabs for News, Follow-up, and Patients. The Patients tab is active, displaying a table of patient data. The table has columns for Last Name, First Name, ID, DOB, #Rx/#Tx, Interventions, and Priority. Below the table is a disclaimer: "Monitor-Rx is a clinical tool—it is not a definitive reference for medication side effects or adverse drug reactions, and is not designed and should not be used as a rigid screen. Monitor-Rx was designed for the geriatric patient treated with medications for chronic diseases and conditions; acute or self-limiting conditions were not considered. The medications screened by Monitor-Rx represent those commonly prescribed to treat chronic diseases and conditions for geriatric patients."

Last Name	First Name	ID	DOB	#Rx/#Tx	Interventions	Priority
Doe	John	1234	1936-07-07	11	1	1
Farmer	Jessie	801	1933-02-28	7	0	1
Delta	Curtin	23456	1935-07-16	1	0	2
Masters	Colette	782783	1933-07-16	1	0	2
Darvis	Bette	87874	1931-07-16	2	1	4
Brobie	Sammie	1396197	1934-04-16	1	0	5