

Oral Defense Announcement

University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Nursing Practice with an emphasis in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Alyssa Graham

Screening for Depression Post Acute Coronary Syndrome

Date: September 18, 2024

Time: 11:00 a.m. 12 p.m.

Place: Nursing Administration Building Room 104

Abstract

Background: Acute coronary syndrome (ACS) and depression have profound impacts on patient outcomes. Patients who experience ACS are at increased risk of developing depression, which is associated with an increased risk of death and recurrent cardiac events. Evidence promotes routine depression screening following ACS events. The purpose of this project was to identify early depression in patients 65-99 years of age who had a recent diagnosis of ACS during their hospitalization.

Methods: This quality improvement (QI) project was a prospective descriptive observational design implementing a depression screening protocol to evaluate post-ACS referrals within 7-14 days of screening from February to May 2024. A convenience sample was utilized. Participants were 65-99 years of age who had a diagnosis of ACS during their hospitalization, met the criteria for the hospital readmission reduction program (HRRP), and were discharged home. Exclusion criteria were no ACS diagnosis during hospitalization, did not meet the criteria for the HRRP program, and were not discharged home. Data collected included age, history of depression, gender, ACS diagnoses, PHQ-2 and PHQ-8 scores.

Results: There were ($N=18$) patients who met criteria for this project. There were ($N=19$) screening opportunities for depression due to one patient having two hospitalizations. Of these, ($n=13$; 68.4%) screening opportunities were completed, and of those, ($n=1$; 7.7%) screened positive, which made data analysis for intervention follow-up not possible. There was a not significant positive relationship between being female and PHQ-2 score ($r(11) = .453$, $p = .120$).

Implications for Practice: Implementing a screening protocol for depression following ACS and collaborating with the PCP could contribute to early identification and treatment for depression to potentially improve health outcomes.

Defense of Dissertation Committee

Vanessa Loyd, Ph.D., DNP, RN

Chairperson

Lisa Sittler, Ph.D., RN, MSN-Ed, APHN-BC, SANE

Allison Rajaratnam, MPH, CPH