

Quality Improvement by Introducing Long-Term Care Outreach HD Program During COVID Pandemic

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Introduction

Dialysis patients with several comorbidities tend to be hospitalized frequently (Banerjee, 2020; Chen, 2020). During the pandemic, LTC residents experience social isolation, especially dialysis patients with multiple hospital admissions. The LTC outreach HD initiative (LTC-HD) improved the quality of life for this cohort through the primary care model.



The impact of LTC-HD initiative on patients:

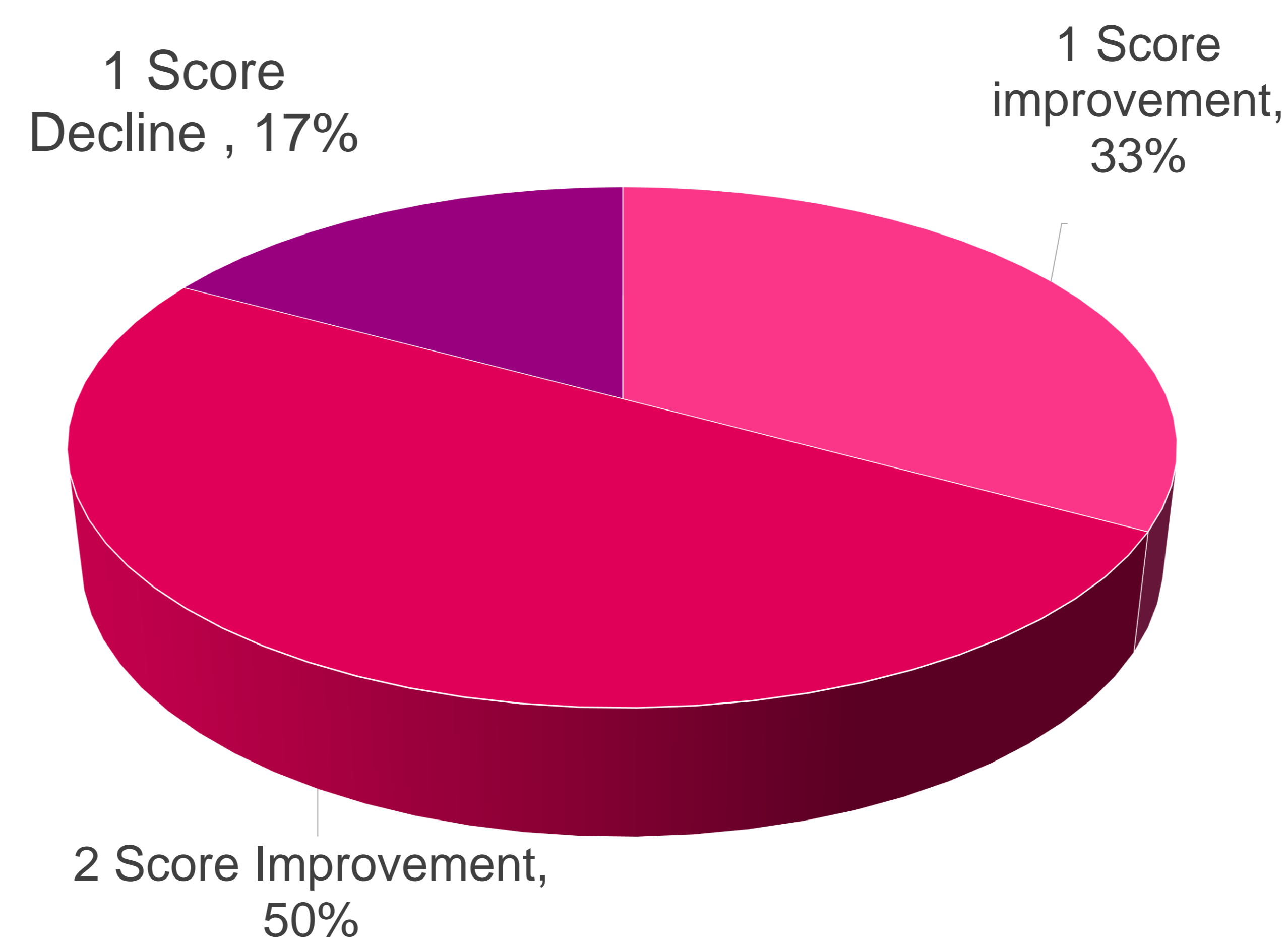
- Maintain the caregiver assignment improve therapeutic relationship
- Lower environmental changes reduce stress
- No need for transportation reduce burden

Methodology

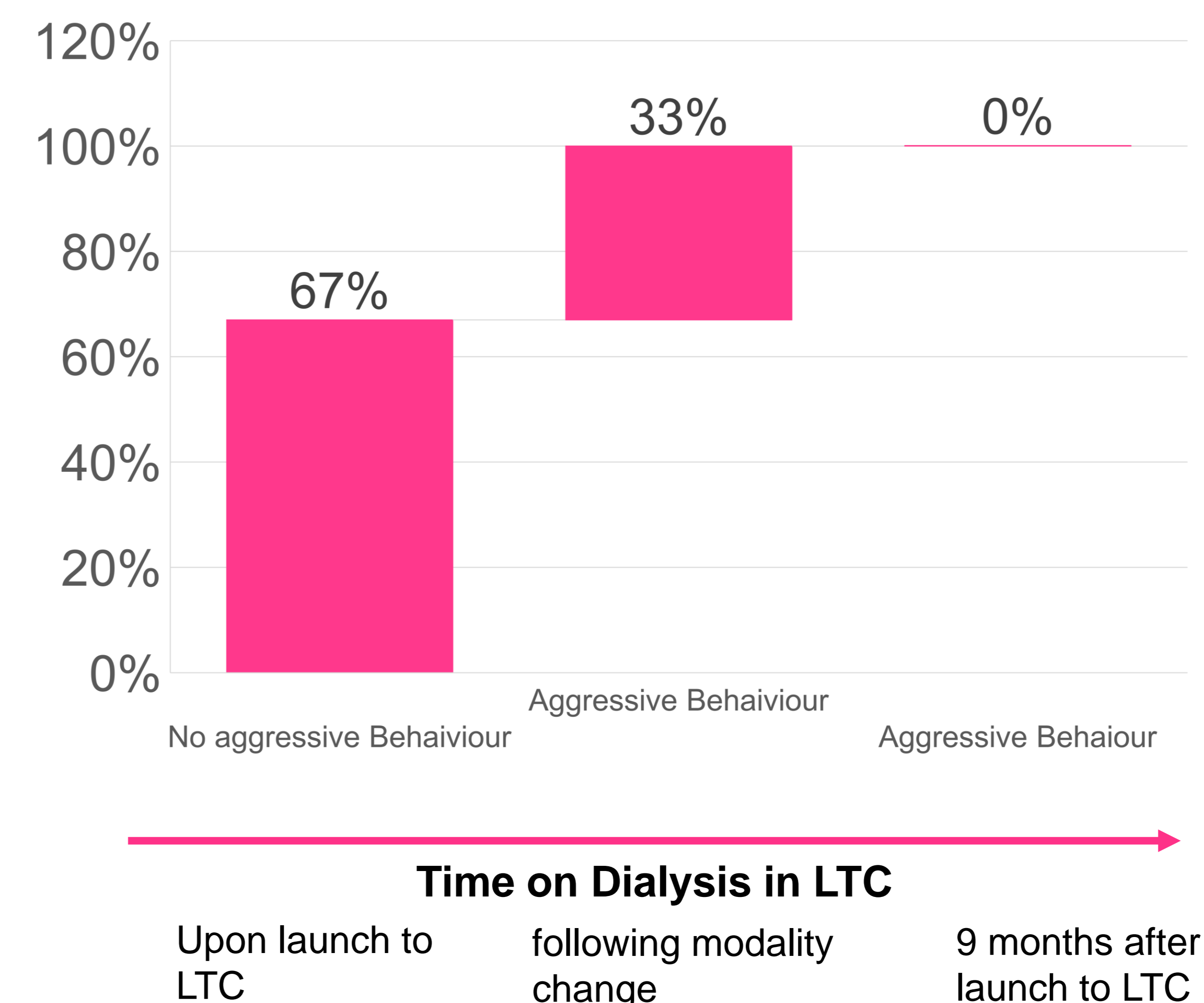
Patients' social engagement and aggressive behaviour were reviewed to understand the impact of the LTC-HD initiative. Six patients out of 27 were selected by convenient sampling technique. Resident Assessment Instrument-Minimum Data Set (RAI-MDS) 2.0, the comprehensive and standardized tool used by experienced assessors upon admission and quarterly (RAI-MDS 2.0 © interRAI Corporation, 2017). RAI-MDS assesses cognitive, mental health, and quality of life (QOL). At least three assessments on the Index of Social Engagement (ISE) and Aggressive Behaviour Scale (ABS) per patient were reviewed from May 2020 to May 2021. The score range of ISE and ABS are 0-6 and 0-12, respectively. A higher ISE score contributes to a higher level of social engagement. A lower ABS score indicates a lower aggressive behaviour.

Results

Improvement in Social Engagement



Improvement in Aggressive Behaviour



Conclusion

Considering social isolation in LTC patients during the pandemic, a decline in social engagement was expected. Providing dialysis in LTC facilitates lower environmental change and reduces the burden of transportation to residents. By maintaining caregiver assignment for the same patient, the therapeutic relationship with residents improved. As a result, The primary care model led to improved social engagement and Quality of life.

Recommendation

The outcome of this study suggest the dialysis in LTC is effective model of care. It is recommended that LTC-HD be offered as a modality option for all dialysis residents when patients are medically stable.

Reference

Banerjee, D. (2020). The impact of Covid-19 pandemic on elderly mental health. *International journal of geriatric psychiatry*, 35(12), 1466–1467. <https://doi.org/10.1002/gps.5320>

Chen, A. T., Ryskina, K. L., & Jung, H.-Y. (2020). Long-Term Care, Residential Facilities, and COVID-19: An Overview of Federal and State Policy Responses. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*, 21(9), 1186–1190. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamda.2020.07.001>

RAI-MDS 2.0 © interRAI Corporation, Washington, D.C.. (2017, June). *Continuing Care Reporting System and RAI-MDS 2.0*. <https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/ccrs-rai-mds-overview-infosheet-en.pdf>. Website.