ADOPTING A STRENGTH-BASED, PERSON-CENTERED RISK ASSESSMENT CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT TOOL: WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Heather MacLeod¹, Véronique Provencher², Dorothy Kessler³, Mary Egan⁴, Dominique Giroux⁵, Marie-Jeanne Kergoat⁶, Lewis Krystina⁴, and Veillette Nathalie⁶.

¹. Perley Health, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 2. Université de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada, 3. Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, 4. University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 5. Université Laval, Québec, Quebec, Canada, 6. Université de Montréal, Montréal, Quebec, Canada

Most older adults want to age in place even if changes in their health results in home safety concerns. A consistent approach to assessing both the physical and psychological risks associated with the decision to remain at home is lacking. The Living with Risk: Decision Support Approach (LwR:DSA) is a recently validated innovative clinical tool that supports a balanced, systematic and person-centered assessment of risks, by analyzing their negative and positive consequences. The aim of this mixed-method study was to understand the barriers and facilitators to using the LwR:DSA during usual care to determine how best to support widespread adoption. Twenty-two hospital- and community-based clinicians used the LwR:DSA for eight weeks. Individual interviews were performed to document the factors that hindered and helped the use of the LwR:DSA in their clinical setting. The interviews were analyzed using Qualitative Description and the positive impact of using the LwR:DSA emerged as one of the facilitator themes. The participants described that using the LwR:DSA in practice improved their clinical decision making, communication and their ability to provide person-centered care. More specifically, the LwR:DSA 1) helped the clinicians understand the risk level and the context, causes, and consequences of the safety concern; 2) guided them to co-create with the older adult, agreeable recommendations to reduce the risk of adverse outcomes; 3) decreased clinician discomfort and 4) supported authentic conversations with the older adult. Understanding the benefits of using the LwR:DSA provides key information for clinicians by challenging the status quo of their current practice.