Highlights of Spring and Summer, 2019

Safe Home Care Project members have been presenting our work to stakeholders in the fields of home care and healthy aging.

Recent Conference Presentations

*Global Carework Summit, Toronto, Canada June 2019*

Presentation title: Cleaning and Disinfection in Home Care: A Qualitative Study to Characterize Aides’ Cleaning Work and Assess Safety and Health Exposures. Presented by Pia Markkanen, Sc.D.

*Home Care Aide Council of Massachusetts Annual Conference, Framingham, MA. June 2019*

Poster title: Highlights of the Safe Home Care Cleaning & Disinfection Study. Presented by Pia Markkanen, Sc.D. and Catherine Galligan, M.S.

New Publications


The Safe Home Care Project has been sharing work from the Safe Cleaning and Disinfection phase of research. As this work continues, the Project is preparing for the next research focus involving interventions to create conditions of home care delivery that protect both home care workers and their clients.

For more information, visit our website at https://www.uml.edu/SafeHC.
Noor Sheikh, Sc.D.

Dissertation title: Changes in Symptoms and Respiratory Biomarkers Due to Airborne Exposure to Cleaning and Disinfecting Products Among Home Care Aides: A Longitudinal Repeated Measures Study.

Summary: Self-reported symptoms, spirometry and eNO results show that home care aides developed short term respiratory symptoms when using everyday cleaning products. Self-reported respiratory symptoms among the HC aides was highest for use of the bleach-based products. Although some symptoms were reported, no significant increase in symptoms was found among aides when using the quats-based, green, and distilled water (control) spray products. Spirometry and eNO showed a similar pattern with a decline in FEV1 and mean eNO solely for the bleach-based cleaner. This is concerning because the use of bleach-based products has been reported as common among home care aides.

Nicole Karlsson, Sc.D.

Dissertation title: Challenging Client Behaviors and Home Care Occupational Safety and Health.

Summary: Dr. Karlsson's research explored verbal abuse and physical abuse among home care aides. A key finding of the study was that client requests for the aides to perform task beyond the scope of the documented care plan may contribute to aides experiencing adverse physical, financial and psychosocial impacts.