Abstract

Elderly people in general are at high risk of experiencing problems with medication therapy due to age-related changes in the body, multiple health problems, living alone, English proficiency, health literacy, economic factors, and cultural beliefs and attitudes. Yet medication adherence is essential in effective self-management of chronic disease. Chronic disease disparities within the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) population in Alaska have been well documented, yet only three studies have been published on medication adherence within this population. The purpose of this project was to investigate safe and informed use of medications among AI/AN people ages 65 and over who received services at Alaska Native Medical Center and Southcentral Foundation. A qualitative study of this issue used iterative focus groups and interviews with key informants of Southcentral Foundation’s Anchorage Native Primary Care Center’s pharmacy. The data were gathered to be used in a medication self-management tool to promote safe and informed use of medications among AI/AN people.