

PREVENTING MEDICINE CONFLICTS

Preventing Medicine Conflicts is an interactive, computer intervention developed by CHIP investigator **Patricia Neafsey** to reduce adverse self-medication practices in older adults with hypertension. The intervention, which features an appealing touch-screen interface and animations of basic pharmacological interactions among prescription medications, over-the-counter agents, and alcohol, was developed for the psychomotor skills, health literacy, and learning styles of adults aged 65 and older. In a rigorous 6-week clinical trial, older adult users of the program demonstrated increased knowledge and self-efficacy concerning potential adverse self-medication practices and reported fewer adverse medication behaviors compared to older adults receiving conventional care. The investigators have recently received a three-year \$1,039,593 grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to extend this research by developing and testing a new version of the computer intervention program (Personal Education Program-Next Generation [PEP-NG]) which is aimed at improving medication adherence and blood pressure readings among older adults. The researchers are currently working with older adults from the community to provide feedback and help identify obstacles in the design of the program. Following a four month beta-test, the team will conduct clinical trials of the intervention at more than a dozen primary care practice sites.

For more information about this intervention, please contact Patricia Neafsey at patricia.neafsey@uconn.edu.