

Abstract of proposal

The purpose of this study is to develop, implement, and evaluate a systematic means to ensure appropriate monitoring is completed for amiodarone-treated patients. In a preliminary evaluation, we have found about 27% of patients did not have a TSH measured in a six month window of taking amiodarone. Additionally, 63% of patients did not have a serum AST or ALT measured. Not measuring these laboratory tests reduces patient safety when taking amiodarone. Using an existing software program within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), we propose to establish a systematic method to improve the monitoring (and by inference the safety) of treating patients with amiodarone.

Patients who are prescribed amiodarone for at least six months will be the patients investigated in development and implementation phases. The development phase will include using the extraction program to ensure that a systematic method of monitoring can be accomplished and compare the results to a preliminary investigation of the laboratory monitoring of amiodarone. The implementation phase will include having the researchers and the Primary Care Clinical Pharmacists evaluate the patients in a concurrent manner and make recommendations and/or intervene to improve the monitoring. Recommendations to evaluate and treat patients with abnormal laboratory tests will be done on a monthly basis in this phase of the project.