

Abstract Title: Greenwich Hospital Nurses' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Perceptions of the Geriatric Patient and Care Environment using the Geriatric Institutional Assessment Profile (GIAP) Survey

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Purpose & Rationale:

Elder adults (those 65 years and older) occupy almost half of all hospital beds in the United States, which is expected to increase as the population ages. At Greenwich Hospital, older adults are a large part of the inpatient population and are represented on all adult medical units. Hospitalization can greatly increase the risk to older adults because it affects mobilization and independence, making them prone to falls. Other risks include changes in mental status and the potential for skin breakdown.

To improve care for the geriatric population, the evidence-based program, NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) was instituted. The Geriatric Institutional Assessment Profile (GIAP) survey was utilized to assess the geriatric knowledge gaps. The goal was to discover a baseline of the nurses' educational needs.

Research Questions: What is the clinical nurse's knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of the geriatric patient and their care environment regarding care of older adults?

Methods/Procedures: A descriptive correctional study was conducted utilizing the GIAP survey tool. Two-hundred and fifty clinical nurses that care for older adults were invited to participate. The survey period was from September 15–October 15, 2015.

Results: There were sixty-six clinical nurses who returned the survey (26.4%). The four major learning needs identified were:

- Medications/sleep/pain
- Dementia and delirium
- Nutrition and hydration
- Function/incontinence

The results provided a baseline to use in developing an evidence-based geriatric education program that focused on both the clinician and patient in a hospital environment.

Discussion/Application to Practice: Baseline research contributed to creating a tailored geriatric nursing curriculum for clinical nurses. The education was a pilot program that began on the Medicine unit in March 2016. The pilot will be evaluated and assist in determining the future rollout of the program to all clinical nurses who care for older adults at Greenwich Hospital. The post GIAP survey will be conducted after completion of the house-wide NICHE education program. Outcomes measured will be falls, length of stay, skin breakdown and quality of life.