Implementation of Interdisciplinary NICHE (Nurses Improving the Care of Healthsystem Elders) Rounds to Improve Patient Outcomes
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Abstract
The patient population of the 1 East unit at the Inspira Medical Center Vineland largely admits frail elderly patients requiring complex, non-critical care. Nurses in that unit performed a literature search to identify best practices. They chose to implement initiatives supported by the Nurses Improving the Care of Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) Program.

Methods
In 2010 1 East received a grant from UMDNJ’s New Jersey Geriatric Education Center which provided funds for all staff (nurses and ancillary) to attend Geriatric Resource Nurse training. Based on the GRN training a system of interdisciplinary NICHE Rounds were instituted in 1 East. In 2011 the rounds were re-designed to focus on Nurse Sensitive Indicators of particular interest in the geriatric population. The re-design of the rounds allowed for the identification of measurable outcomes (CAUTI, Hospital Acquired Pressure Ulcers, Restraints and Length of Stay) and provided a venue for effective interdisciplinary communication in which all disciplines to provide input on each indicator from their own unique perspective.

Results
Interdisciplinary Rounds started in 2011 with the last eight quarters showing a decrease in HAPU and Restraints to no occurrences. Falls with Injury have stayed below benchmark 6 out of 8 quarters and CAUTI rates showed 1 occurrence out of 8 quarters.

Conclusion
Each discipline holds information that is useful to others when deciding upon treatments and plan of care. This collaboration encourages continuity of patient care and prevention of disparities. Collaboration works best in an environment that respects the opinions and professional contribution of all participants. Geriatric Rounds promote mutual respect through group problem solving, cohesiveness, and creativity, which are characteristics of a synergistic healthcare team.

References
NICHE Program Knowledge Center: http://nicheprogram.org/knowledge_center