**NICHE Annual Conference**

**Overview**
The annual NICHE Conference is a four-day event highlighting evidence-based innovations, research, and networking opportunities. The goal is to provide support to hospitals and other healthcare organizations in meeting one of the most critical challenges of our times - quality care of older adults. The conferences include keynotes, panel presentations, and poster presentations from geriatric experts and at-the-forefront NICHE programs addressing a wide range of topics.

**Features & Benefits**

**Feature:** Renowned keynote speakers  
**Benefit:** Presentations by recognized experts and thought-leaders provide attendees with insightful perspectives on national geriatric initiatives, policy analysis, and leading-edge models of care

**Feature:** Interactive panels  
**Benefit:** Equip attendees with a wealth of information and insights from members of highly successful NICHE programs and other healthcare professionals on improving care for older adult patients

**Feature:** Poster presentations  
**Benefit:** Wide range of posters based on specific conference foci give attendees reviews of innovative NICHE and non-NICHE hospital initiatives that they can use at their own sites to improve quality of care for older adult patients

**Feature:** Research updates  
**Benefit:** National leaders in the field of older adult patient acute care provide the most recent research findings on various geriatric-related topics

**Feature:** Networking  
**Benefit:** Provides attendees with opportunities to learn more about NICHE and make connections with colleagues

**Application**
The annual NICHE Conferences open up new paths for attendees to innovative solutions and higher quality care trends that meet the special and diverse needs of the older adult. Clinicians, administrators, and researchers present evidence-based approaches to promote positive outcomes and experiences for the hospitalized older adult.
NICHE Hospital Innovation

Dilemma of Delirium in the Geriatric Hip Fracture Patient

2012 Conference Poster Session Winner in the Care for the Critically Ill Older Adult category.

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Delirium occurs in 14% to 56% of older patients and represents the most frequent complication for this group. The incidence of delirium among hip-surgery patients is 43-60%. The length of stay for a patient with acute delirium can be expected to increase by an average of 8 days. The mortality rate for patients with delirium is 22%, and the one-year mortality rate is 35% to 40%. In spite of the delirium occurrence rate, the complication frequently goes unrecognized and untreated in up to 70% of patients.

In view of the potential for 50% of geriatric hip fracture patients developing delirium while hospitalized, the hospital launched an initiative to develop ways to protect this very specialized patient population using education, screening and assessment tools, and an interdisciplinary approach to the creation of a delirium algorithm. The algorithm provided a pathway to better screening, recognition, and diagnosis of delirium in the geriatric hip fracture patient population. Also, understanding nursing staff are critical to the proper recognition and treatment of patients with delirium, the interdisciplinary team provided multiple opportunities for formal and informal education to all dedicated geriatric hip fracture nursing staff.

The initiative included:
• Nurse education on delirium and the CAM (Confusion Assessment Method) tool
• Delirium screening tool for geriatric hip fracture patient population
• CAM tool use
• Predictive model for delirium and CAM tool use/trends tracking
• Delirium prevention discussion during rounds
• Patient family delirium education brochure
• Patient family involvement in the care of the patient
• Hospitalist notification whenever CAM tool indicated delirium

By way of results, the interdisciplinary team tracked the implementation of the delirium predictive model and the daily use of the CAM tool with an emphasis on trends, compliance, and performance improvement. Results showed use of the CAM tool with the at-risk population increased over 70% during a five-month period.

REFERENCES

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View the current NICHE Conference website. The conferences are open through paid registration to all interested healthcare professionals.