NICHE Geriatric Institutional Assessment Profile

Overview
The Geriatric Institutional Assessment Profile (GIAP) was developed by NICHE for use by its designated sites. The GIAP, an important component of the Leadership Training Program (LTP) and evaluation process, enables hospitals to quantify staff knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions in the care of geriatric patients, and assess their institutional readiness to provide quality care of older adult patients.

Features & Benefits
Feature: Uses a database of more than 105,000 staff completed responses from more than 300 hospitals
Benefit: Provides an ideal basis for comparing a NICHE hospital against similar hospitals in key measures of staff knowledge/attitudes and institutional support

Feature: Quantifies staff geriatric knowledge
Benefit: Identifies objective evidence of gaps in knowledge levels

Feature: Delivers detailed comparison of staff against other hospitals by peer bed size and teaching status
Benefit: Allows administrators and researchers to document improvement in nurses’ perception of care provided to older hospitalized adults following NICHE program implementation

Feature: Provides a baseline profile
Benefit: Useful in evaluating effectiveness of ongoing CQI (Continuing Quality Improvement) efforts

Feature: French language version available
Benefit: Supports NICHE designated hospitals that have French-speaking staff

Applications
Measurement and evaluation are critical to implementing and sustaining the NICHE model across all settings. The GIAP survey is easy to administer and provides invaluable data for targeting areas for improvement. It gives hospitals the means to gauge the success of quality improvement processes across all settings, including attitudes regarding care, knowledge of institutional guidelines, and perceived institutional strengths and barriers to “best practice” in the care of older adult patients.
Hudson Valley Hospital Center’s NICHE steering committee identified needs and improvement targets to elevate the organization to a new level in care provision to the older adult patients. The most important need was implementation of educational strategies for nursing personnel to bridge knowledge gaps identified in the NICHE Geriatric Institutional Assessment Profile (GIAP) survey. The hospital initiated NICHE training classes for RNs and Patient Care Technicians (PCT). Each class included:

- Pre- and post-tests to measure changes in knowledge
- Encouragement of geriatric certification by RNs who would then serve as unit-based champions

**Implementation - Protocol Development**

- Education program initiated
- SPICES plan of care implemented
- Clinical guidelines/procedures started at unit level using the Try This! series
- Patient/family education launched

As a result of implementing the NICHE education modules, the following programs were developed:

- Lemon Water Hydration Program
- Engagement of medical staff in initiating and educating about delirium assessment and interventions
- Commitment by the hospital to offer a NICHE symposium addressing cognitive decline in the older adult
- Nursing units launch a geriatric education program

### REFERENCES