

NICHE Geriatric Patient Care Associate

Overview

The Geriatric Patient Care Associate (GPCA) (2nd Edition) is a web-based course that supports the role of the patient care associate/patient care technician in providing best practice care to older adult patients. The seven GPCA modules address issues relevant to the healthcare worker, who plays a pivotal role in the older adult's recovery and comfort. In addition to these modules, the content is also provided in instructor led PowerPoints.

Features & Benefits

Feature: Describes age-related sensory loss and hospital-related sensory overload, and sensory deprivation in the older adult patient

Benefit: Provides basis for minimizing the impact of sensory changes on the older adult patient

Feature: Describes iatrogenic illnesses in older patients, geriatric clinical syndromes and the effects of aging on different systems of the body

Benefit: Gives GPCAs the knowledge to deal with the four F's: Frailty, Function, Feeding, and Food

Feature: Identifies age-related changes in the skin and explains the importance of skin care in older adults

Benefit: Arms the GPCA with the knowledge to help prevent skin tears and pressure ulcers in older adult patients

Feature: Discusses the significance of and best practices for dealing with delirium, dementia, and depression in hospitalized older adults

Benefit: Provides the knowledge required to implement care interventions to help prevent and manage delirium, dementia, and depression

Application

The GPCA complements the 2nd edition of the NICHE Geriatric Resource Nurse (GRN) training program and the NICHE Introduction to Gerontology series designed for all hospital personnel. Combined, these curricula enable educators to deliver a comprehensive education program of evidence-based geriatric nursing care in their hospital.

NICHE PORTFOLIO



Support Resources

- **NICHE Organizational Strategy:** Patient Family Advisory Councils
- **Geriatric Resource Nurse** (2nd Edition, 2012)
- **Introduction to Gerontology** (2nd Edition, 2012)
- **NICHE "Evidence-Based Geriatric Nursing Protocols for Best Practice"** (4th Edition, 2012). New York: Springer Publishing
- **NICHE Online Connect Webinars:** Geriatric Care Interventions, Geriatric Practice
- **NICHE Solutions Series:** Geriatric Care Interventions, Geriatric Practice

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NICHE Hospital Innovation

Nursing Assistant Geriatric Training: A Collaboration between an Academic Medical Center and a School of Nursing

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Improving care and outcomes for older adult patients has typically focused on increasing the knowledge and expertise of staff nurses. However, nursing assistants (NAs) also provide a significant amount of patient care. NAs may not be equipped with the specialized knowledge needed to improve care of older adult patients and understand their specialized needs.

The goal of the project at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, a large, acute care academic medical center, was to improve care of older adult hospital patients through the education of NAs. The strategy employed to achieve the goal was the development of computer-based continuing education for NAs.

The project was a collaborative effort teaming the Geriatric Clinical Nurse Specialist, 26 NICHE Geriatric Resource Nurses (GRNs), and faculty and undergraduate students in the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing. The group developed 25 Geriatric Patient Care presentations. The topics for each of the presentations were randomly assigned to GRNs teamed with groups of nursing students taking a course in gerontological nursing. Each team developed a 15-minute presentation on their topic geared to the educational needs of NAs. NAs reviewed the presentations, evaluated the modules, and received continuing education credits.

The GRNs evaluated the usefulness of the content, ease-of-use, and satisfaction with the presentation format. Twenty-five successful presentations are now being used as resources for NA education throughout the system. Six of these have been incorporated into a workshop for NAs, as well as NA orientation.

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- REFERENCES**
1. Wertheimer, D. (2002). The Geriatric Nursing Assistant: The Most Important Team Player - the Most Important Eyes. Baltimore: University of Maryland School of Medicine.
 2. Weitzel, T., Robinson, S.B., Henderson, L., & Anderson, K. (2005). Helping Hands: CNAs in Elder Care. *Nursing Management*, 36(4), 41-46.

- NICHE-RELATED RESOURCES**
1. NICHE Planning & Implementation Guide: Staff Development.

View the Geriatric Patient Care Associate. These resources are available only to NICHE member organizations.