

NICHE Geriatric Resource Nurse

Overview

The Geriatric Resource Nurse (GRN) (2nd edition 2012) is designed for use by NICHE members who educate nurses in best practices for older hospitalized adults. The online curriculum contains the latest evidence-based practice content, and is designed for easy access and navigation. The GRN is based on the book *Evidence-Based Geriatric Nursing Protocols for Best Practice*.

Features & Benefits

Feature: Describes the process of normal aging and how it produces modifications in both the structure and function of organs in older adults

Benefit: Provides an educational component for incorporating into routine nursing care the clinical significance of age-related changes in communication, risk of disease, atypical presentation, and health of older adults

Feature: Discusses risk factors contributing to falls in older adults

Benefit: Arms Geriatric Resource Nurses with knowledge to help educate nursing staff in identifying those with high fall risk, and the means to mitigate the risk and prevent patient injuries

Feature: Explains the safe and effective use of medication for older adult patients

Benefit: Provides a basis for educating nurses regarding inappropriate medications for older adults and intervention measures to avoid adverse drug events

Feature: Describes the consequences of reduced mobility in older adults

Benefit: Supports nurse education efforts for development of individualized care plan strategies that reduce deconditioning

Application

The Geriatric Resource Nurse is part of the NICHE Core Curriculum, that also includes the Geriatric Patient Care Associate (GPCA) for patient care associates, the Introduction to Gerontology for all personnel across all hospital departments, the Nursing Care of the Older Adult with Cancer, and the Critical Care Nursing of Older Adults. Combined, these curricula enable educators to deliver a comprehensive education program of evidence-based geriatric nursing care in their hospitals, and allow hospitals to elevate their NICHE programs to greater levels of success.

NICHE PORTFOLIO



Support Resources

- NICHE Leadership Training (LTP) Program
- Introduction to Gerontology (2nd Edition, 2012)
- NICHE Planning & Implementation Guide
- NICHE Hospitals Report Summary
- NICHE “*Evidence-Based Geriatric Nursing Protocols for Best Practice*” (4th Edition, 2012). New York: Springer Publishing
- NICHE Online Connect Webinars: Implementing NICHE, GRN
- NICHE Solutions Series: Safety, Medication

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NICHE Hospital Innovation

Integrating Geriatrics with Patient & Family Centered Care on Medical Specialties

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A multidisciplinary team at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center implemented a multifaceted approach (Geriatric Resource Nurse and Geriatric Patient Care Associate roles, and transitional care initiatives) to better meet the unique care needs of their older adult patient group.

The team employed a number of initiatives to help transform the culture of geriatric care and achieve the greatest potential for the older adult patients and their families. These initiatives included:

- Creation of a Geriatric Nurse Coordinator position in the medical specialty line
- Formation of a geriatric steering committee
- Use of local and national resources, including...
 - NICHE Designation
 - Dartmouth Centers for Health and Aging partnership
 - Clinical Microsystems quality improvement processes

Specific action steps involved an “Ask the Nurse” community education program, follow-up phone calls, and ongoing internet-based education efforts. A Geriatric Resource Nurse and a Geriatric Patient Care Tech were also added to the staff.

In those areas that the program sought to improve outcomes for hospitalized older adults, results showed a 19% decrease in loss of functional status, 6-36% lower rates of delirium compared to reported levels, and pressure ulcers prevalence rates reduced by more than half from 6% to 2%.

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- **NICHE Solutions Series: Safety, Medication**

REFERENCES

1. Bechtel, C. & Ness, D.L. (2010). If you build it, will they come? Designing truly patient-centered health care. *Health Affairs*, 29 (5), 914-20.
2. Boltz, M., Capezuti, E., Bowar-Ferres, S. et al. (2008). Changes in the Geriatric Care Environment Associated with NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders). *Geriatr Nurs*. 2008 May-Jun; 29(3):176-85.
3. Havens, D.S., Vasey, J., Gittel, J.H. & Lin W.T. (2010). Relational coordination among nurses and other providers: impact on the quality of patient care. *Journal of Nursing Management* 18 (8), 926-937.

View the Geriatric Resource Nurse. These resources are available only to NICHE member organizations.