

NICHE Hospitals Reports

Overview

The NICHE Hospitals Reports are published to highlight the positive outcomes and innovative initiatives developed and implemented in NICHE designated facilities for the improvement of care of older adults.

Features & Benefits

Feature: The Hospitals Reports provide summaries of outcomes and initiatives from the referenced care categories and healthcare settings

Benefit: Quickly details successful initiatives implemented at NICHE sites for easy reference

Feature: Hospitals Reports provide an in-depth focus on specific categories and settings

Benefit: Organizes reports in specific topics of interest to NICHE sites implementing their own initiatives or looking to expand programming

Feature: Reports include clinical outcomes and results from initiatives

Benefit: Demonstrates success of the hospitals' initiatives

Feature: Linked references are provided for ease of use and follow-up for more in-depth review of evidence based practice

Benefit: Provides guidance for NICHE sites interested in developing and implementing similar projects

Feature: Hospitals Reports are publicized in healthcare media to highlight older adult initiatives

Benefit: Promotes the NICHE Program as well as the success of NICHE Sites and the impact on patient outcomes and satisfaction

Application

The NICHE Hospitals Reports provide a high level review of NICHE sites implementing, embedding, and evaluating best practice in the care of older adults. The reports also provide evidence of geriatric best practice at the bedside for NICHE facilities and healthcare organizations.

NICHE PORTFOLIO



NICHE Hospitals Reports

- **Delirium:** Initiatives aimed at reducing delirium, and increasing delirium screening, team approaches, and more.
- **Dementia:** Initiatives focusing on increasing dementia screening, team approaches, and more.
- **Function:** Programs to alleviate functional decline and improve outcomes for older adult patients.
- **Operationalizing NICHE:** Best practice and quality improvement projects related to the implementation of the NICHE Program.
- **Safety:** Highlights interventions and initiatives related to the safety of hospitalized older adults.
- **Summary:** Quick reference report detailing research and initiatives related to a variety of older adult healthcare issues.
- **Transitions:** Research and quality improvement projects focusing on transitions between home, hospitals, and nursing homes.

NICHE Hospitals Reports

Transitions

Quality Improvement Projects:

NICHE Site: Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Realizing the geriatric population in Medical Specialties at their facility represented their core consumers, Dartmouth-Hitchcock needed to commit to meet the unique care needs of this group as well as provide support for patients transitioning to home.

A multidisciplinary team implemented 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
- Home transition bags
- Follow-up phone calls
- 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 and ongoing internet based staff education efforts. A Geriatric Resource Nurse and a Geriatric Patient Care Tech were also added to the staff.

Results: The units that implemented the Elder Care initiatives demonstrated a 19% improvement in functional status, a 6-36% lower rate of delirium compared to pre-intervention rates, and finally a reduction in the Pressure Ulcer rate from 6% to 2%.

NICHE Site: Saint Mary's Health Care. Traditionally, patients will move 3-6 times during a hospital stay to receive the level of care needed to meet their acuity level which can cause missed or delayed treatments, medication errors, patient falls, and result in contact with as many as 100 healthcare providers. By incorporating an evidence-based acuity adaptable care delivery model, hospitals can reduce the amount of transfers, decrease length of stay, and improve patient satisfaction.

The Acuity Adaptable Care Delivery Model:

- Places the patient on a unit with varied levels of acuity
- Nurses are able to alter the level of care based on the acuity of a patient without moving the patient to another unit
- Allows for the care of patients from general med/surg to intermediate and from intermediate to intensive care levels

Results: The use of the model can positively impact patient, physician, and nurse satisfaction, decrease patient anxiety, and reduce mortality, complications, LOS, and hospital costs. Implementation of the model at Saint Mary's Health Care reduced transfer of patients to a higher level of care by 35% and improved patient satisfaction scores by 9%.

View the entire NICHE Hospitals Reports series.

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