Infusing Geriatric Concepts

Best practices in geriatric care must be understood by health care providers, nursing students must be educated about the increase in hospital and community-based health care services.

Older adults have more acute and co-morbid conditions that will require an increase in hospital and community-based health care services.

To promote more positive outcomes for this population in their encounters with health care providers, nursing students must be educated about the best practices in geriatric care.

Infusing Geriatric Concepts

Students identified an elderly client while at clinical who had age related changes:

• Older than 65 years
• Has a recurrent hospitalization due to chronic illness
• Poly-pharmacy or medication reconciliation concerns
• End of life care
• Falls
• Dementia/Delirium/Alzheimer’s disease
• MOCA Assessment

"Elder" Centered Plan of Care

Students completed a concept map including 3-5 nursing diagnoses, subjective & objective assessment, medications, laboratory and diagnostics, nursing interventions (actions, teaching, collaborative), goals and outcomes for the patient and evaluation of their nursing care.

Background & Significance

The number of older adults in the United States is expected to increase exponentially over the next three decades.

The population of Americans 65 years and older is projected to more than double to 70 million by the year 2030, while the number of centenarians will increase from 65,000 to 381,000.

Older adults have more acute and co-morbid conditions that will require an increase in hospital and community-based health care services.

To promote more positive outcomes for this population in their encounters with health care providers, nursing students must be educated about the best practices in geriatric care.

Conclusion

• This assignment reinforced geriatric concepts taught in the classroom and integrated geriatric assessment into the clinical practice environment.
• Students reported having an increased knowledge of elder specific concerns, more skill in providing quality patient centered care, and a greater value for the geriatric population.
• These methods helped the students to gain a deeper understanding of caring for older adults using the affective domain, along with the traditional cognitive and psychomotor domains.

References


