

INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE HEALTH & OPTIMAL AGING

Title: Fostering Compassionate Care for Persons with Alzheimer's Disease Living in Nursing Facilities

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to examine the impact of the implementation of a new Compassionate Care curriculum on the quality of care provided by Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) to residents with Alzheimer's Disease (AD). More specifically, the study used Kirkpatrick's model of evaluation to assess the reactions, learning, and behavior change of the CNAs exposed to the curriculum, and ultimately the impact of the curriculum on the stress levels of residents with AD. The study included an experimental and control nursing facility with the experimental group being exposed to the new curriculum and the control group being exposed to the current standard curriculum required by law. Forty-eight CNAs from the experimental group and 51 from the control group were part of the study. A convenient sample of 25 residents with AD from the experimental group and 27 from the control group participated. Two hypotheses were tested, namely H1: After completion of the compassionate care curriculum by the CNA experimental group, CNAs will show a significantly higher increase in knowledge, caregiving self-efficacy, caregiving satisfaction and a significantly higher reduction in feelings of affiliate stigma than the CNAs who completed the current standard curriculum (control group); H2: Differences in change in CNAs knowledge, confidence, satisfaction and affiliate stigma will have a differential effect on the 12- week agitation and salivary cortisol trajectories of residents with Alzheimer's Disease in the experimental and control nursing facilities. A two-way mixed method MANOVA analysis was used to test Hypothesis 1, and multilevel modeling, specifically a cross-classified hybrid model, was used to test Hypothesis 2. Hypothesis 1 were proven with significant higher scores on all indicators for the experimental group. Hypothesis 2 also showed that agitation and salivary cortisol levels were reduced significantly more for the residents in the experimental group as compared to those in the control group. CNA knowledge increases, and self-efficacy increases contributed the most to these changes.

Recent Publications

Faul, A.C., D'Ambrosio, J.G., Yankeelov, P.A., Cotton, S.G., Furman, C.D., Fall-Faul, M., Gordon, B. & Wright, B. (2018). Human Flourishing and Integrated Care Models: The Development of the Flourish Index. *Gerontologist*. DOI: 10.1093/Geront/gny114

D'Ambrosio, J.G., Faul, A.C., Fields, M. & Cotton, S.G. (in press). Baby-Boomer Longer Term Care Expectations. International Journal of Health, Wellness and Society.

Yankeelov, P.A., Faul, A.C., D'Ambrosio, J.G., Gordon, B.A. & McGeeney, T. (2018). Using World Cafés to Create Healthier Communities for Older Adults Living with Diabetes in Rural Areas. *Health Promotion Practice.* DOI: 10.1177/1524839918760558

Schapmire, T.J. & Faul, A.C. (2017) Depression symptoms in older adults with cancer: A multilevel longitudinal study. *Journal of Psychosocial Oncology*. 35(3) 260-2017. ISSN: 1540-7586.

Bibliography

Dr. Faul's 32-year career has been dedicated to helping older adults live productive and healthy lives across the lifespan. She has been awarded 16 awards for excellence in teaching, has published more than 50 peer reviewed articles and book chapters and has presented over 90 peer-reviewed national presentations. Her research that focused on implementation of evidenced based biopsychosocial interventions include studies funded by the National Institute on Aging, the Hartford Foundation and the New York Academy of Medicine, the Hartford Foundation and Gerontological Society of America, Department of Health and Human Services, The Kentucky Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dr. D'Ambrosio's clinical work and community-based research is focused on developing innovative evidenced based clinical health interventions for older adults. He has presented over 50 peer-reviewed national presentations and has co-authored articles on community engagement related to health initiatives, and compassionate love. He has written and worked on grants funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Resources and Health Administration and Passport Health Plan. His interest is in uncovering individual and community strength and resilience that fosters health through intentional and deliberate actions of compassion within the healthcare system and society in general.

Scientific Session's Name: Track 13: Dementia Nursing
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