University of Pittsburgh

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing

Department of Health and Community Systems

AGING SAFELY GLOBALLY

(In Place)

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Disclosures

The speaker has no conflicts of interest to disclose

Objectives

1. Discuss 3 policy proposals as strategies to aging safely globally
2. Explain the principle of primary prevention in relationship to policy development
3. Develop a policy that integrates aging safely through advanced health planning



Primary Prevention Conceptual Framework

Primary Prevention: to come before, forestall, or to lower the risk of experiencing RV

Cutting the Broad Street water pump to halt the London cholera epidemic

Gordon suggests 3 population groups:

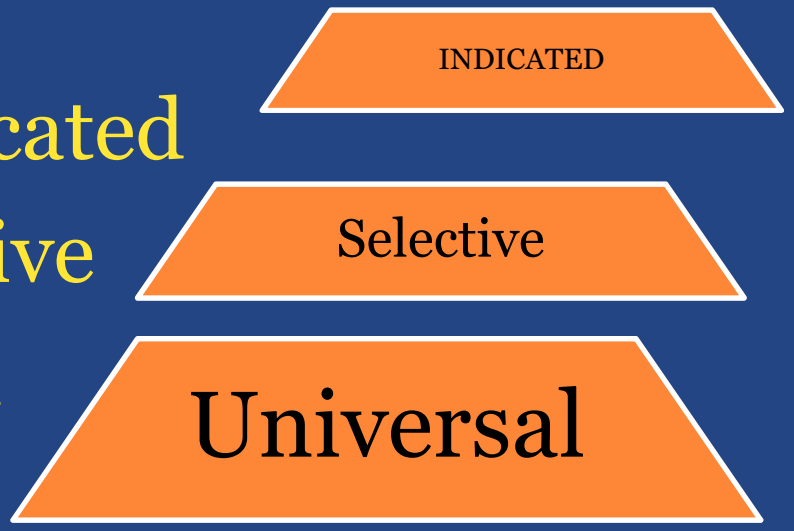
- Universal-largest group may or may not be at risk for RV
- Selective- higher than average risk of experiencing RV
- Indicated-has a manifest risk factor for RV

Primary Prevention Framework

Indicated

Selective

Universal



PRIMARY PREVENTION

A Case Study

- John and Mary (late 70's) lived in their own home for 50 years
- Their 39-year old daughter lived with them since birth
- John a retired steel mill worker suffers from early signs of dementia and Mary a homemaker has type 2 diabetes
- John and Mary depended on their daughter for chores that entailed driving such as shopping for groceries and supplies, banking, doctors' visits, and personal care appointments
- Complaint against their daughter was when she came home late at night and dinner was not prepared for her, she yelled and cursed at her mother, threw pots and pans, and slammed doors
- John and Mary would retreat to their bedroom terrified and out until their daughter was asleep



Protection From Abuse

- Daughter threatened to stab Mary with a kitchen knife. Neighbor calls police and John and Mary referred to the NLSA for a PFA
- At the PFA hearing, the case was settled and the PFA was dropped because the daughter apologized explaining she had been under stress because she was just diagnosed with “breast cancer”
- Next day, Mary was admitted to the hospital. Daughter called 9-1-1 after Mary’s fall down the basement steps
- After several weeks in the hospital for a hip surgery, Mary was admitted to a long-term care nursing facility
- Within one week of Mary’s admission, she died from head injuries after falling from bed
- A few months after Mary’s funeral, the daughter sued the nursing facility for wrongful death

The Trial

- At trial, the defense's expert witness testified on behalf of the nursing facility related to their policy and procedure in the care of patients "at risk for falls"
- The doctor ordered special constant observation (SCO) 4 days after Mary's admission to the facility
- The policy clearly stipulated that staff follow "SCO" procedures, which means the staff must (1) visit the patient every 5 minutes around the clock, (2) record the visits accordingly on the patient's chart, and (3) report any unusual observation
- Three days after the SCO order was given, Mary died of severe head injuries after her fall

Older Adult Protective Act

Chapter 3, Section 301 of the PA Older Adults Protective Act creates duties in the department and agencies on aging to provide three items:

1) Public information and interdepartmental consultation—the department shall conduct ongoing information and education to older adults, professionals, and the general public
2) Staff training—the department shall establish minimum standards of training and experience, which protective services providers shall be required to follow in the selection and assignment of staff for the provision of protective services.
3) Protective services plans in each area agency on aging is available as part of the annual plan describing the local implementation of chapter 3. The plan shall describe the implementation, including the organization, staffing, mode of operations and financing of protective devices

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Pro Bono Law Practice

My Pro Bono legal work, research, and clinical work with older persons experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) presented me with challenges and opportunities aggravated as an FN and lawyer:

- Who were John's and Mary's (other Johns' and Marys' advocate in their home, in the hospital and in the nursing facility?
- Did the family court fail John and Mary?
- Mary's fall happened 4-5 minutes after daughter lef 1-2 minutes before staff checked on Mary.
- Is this a coincidence or perfect timing?
- Were Mary's fatal head injuries consistent with inju patient with hip surgery falling out of bed?
- What happens to John now that Mary is gone?

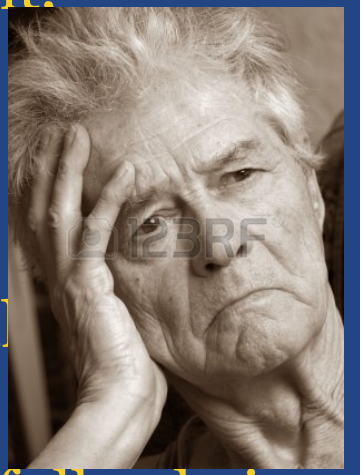


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Aging Safely Globally (ASG)



- Treated with dignity, fairness and respect;
- Empowered to shape own futures however proximate or distant their future may be
- Free from physical, mental, emotional and financial abuse and neglect including threats/actual abandonment, exploitation, intimidation, bodily injury, physical and/or sexual abuse



- Able to access healthcare and social support
- Represented by a strong cadre of advocates, healt social services, and competent legal services
- Able to contribute actively, productively and gainfully their expertise and abilities as long as possible

Policies to Explore in ASG

Policy #1: Conduct an ongoing and continuing information and education with older adults, caregivers and the general public about the availability of protective services using online or mobile devices



Policy #2: Establish nursing facility staff screening tools and continuing education with evidence-based standards

Policy #3: Utilize tools in planning, implementation and evaluation of protective and preventive quality improve strategies in all nursing facility as part of the annual pla



Objectives

- Explore a comprehensive screening, assessment, implementation, and evaluation measures
- Identify provisions made for purchase of services, interagency relations, interagency agreements, service referral mechanisms and locus of responsibility,
- Create a Quality Improvement Report including the elements, i.e. Staffing, Mode of Operation, Financing of Protective Services, Interagency Relations, Service Referrals, and Locus of Responsibility.
- Explore evidence on abuse, neglect and violence in older adults affect health and health-related behavior,
- Explore evidence on violence-related chronic stress in older adults lead to poorer health,
- Expand information and continuing education programs that are language and content –appropriate
- Provide opportunity to older adults, professionals and general public to receive free continuing education credits



Strategies

- **Identify possible legislative or regulatory options**
- **Contact necessary coaliti to generate support**
- **Linking policy with a legislative component**
- **Identify organizations as resources**
- **Develop a timeline**



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QUESTIONS

- Availability online: rco100@pitt.edu
- Interprofessional collaborative extramural research and funding opportunities
- Interprofessional collaborative policy development
- Interprofessional collaborative white paper, chapter, or abstract co-authorship
- Resources