Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Nursing Practice

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Palliative Care Screening for Persons Living with Dementia in the Nursing Home

Date: July 6, 2022
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.
Place: 219B SCCB

Abstract

Problem: Dementia is rapidly increasing as the people of the world mature and life expectancy increases. As the world ages and the prevalence of dementia increases, nursing home placement will and is the most sought place for care of this population.

Methods: This quality improvement (QI) initiative utilized a prospective, descriptive design. The Palliative Care Screening for the Elderly was administered to a purposive sample of persons living with dementia residing in the nursing home. Qualitative data was collected over 12 weeks. Data collected included age, sex, race, location, dementia diagnosis, decreased oral intake, weight loss, incontinence, decreased physical activity, new or worse pressure ulcer, fall, emergency room visits, and orders for palliative care.

Results: Following the implementation of the residents screened over the course of 12 weeks, (n = 52) were eligible per palliative care orders. Eleven residents were referred to palliative care, resulting in 21.3% of residents living with dementia receiving palliative services.

Implications for Practice: Standardized utilization of the Palliative Care Screening for the Elderly could further identify residents at risk for deconditioning and help to initiate interventions before a severe decline occurs. Additionally, the early identification can contribute to quality indicators that derive nursing home ratings.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
Chairperson, Nancy Magnuson, DSN, APRN, PCS, FNP-BC
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