

Promoting Successful Management of the Older Adult Patient in the Acute Care Setting by Championing Geriatric Education for Internal Medicine Residents

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Abstract/ Purpose:

It has been identified that more than 1/3 of all hospital person's in the US are aged 65 yrs. of age & older. The push in health care is decreased length of stay & promote care in other settings. Adverse drug reactions have been identified as a contributing factor to preventable re-admissions to acute care.

Background:

After a literature review it was discovered that there is a wide variability regarding the baseline educational requirements for Medical Residency Programs in the US for care of the older adult patient. As part of our organizations reviews related to patient falls it was discovered that our residents were facing challenges related to management of this patient population.

Outcomes:

Based on the inconsistent outcomes with this patient population, the NICHE Coordinator developed a one hour overview lecture on the physiological differences and management of the geriatric patient population and potential ramifications for care based on these differences.

Conclusion:

Education needs to be offered on a regular basis related to the continual turn-over of Internal Medicine Residents. There is also the challenge of getting buy in from the attending physicians. There also needs to be the collaborative support from the balance of the health care team such as pharmacy, physical therapists, and dieticians.



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