A Focus on Older Adults

Competency Development and Evaluation for Health Professionals and Others who Work with Older Adults

This CD-ROM was created for people who work or plan to work with older adults but may not have had specific education in gerontology or geriatrics. People who do have specific education in gerontology will also find useful resources here.

The CD-ROM contains multiple interactive learning activities designed to assist you to develop and evaluate competencies for working with older adults.

The nine Older Adult Competencies encompassed on this CD-ROM lead you from an initial focus on individual older adults, to a more complex focus on older adult and caregiver issues, and finally, to a focus on system issues. Frameworks guide you throughout, by showing you the larger picture into which each smaller piece fits. Menus of learning activities allow you to choose activities that are pertinent to your work setting and fit with your individual learning style.

Evidence-based assessment tools!
References to journal articles!
Hand-on activities!
PowerPoint presentations!
Fact sheets and Handouts!
Web links to resources!
Puzzles!

Price for CD-ROM is $40.00 (U.S. currency)
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School of Nursing,
Penny Roberts
Mail code SN-6South,
3455 SW U.S. Veterans Hospital Road,
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If you have questions, please contact us at robertspe@ohsu.edu

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**Linda Felver, PhD, RN** is known as a master teacher. Recipient of multiple teaching awards, she has combined her passion for teaching with her love for older adults in the creation of this CD-ROM. Linda is an Associate Professor and Director of the Older Adult Focus Project at Oregon Health & Sciences University (OHSU) School of Nursing, where she teaches pathophysiology, pharmacology, and gerontological nursing focusing on healthy aging.

**Catherine Van Son, PhD, RN** has more than 30 years experience working with older adults. Her experience includes the continuum of community based care: nursing homes, assisted living, PACE model care settings, home health, hospice and congregational health. She hopes this CD-ROM will encourage and empower care providers in their professional interactions with older adults. Catherine is an Assistant Professor at OHSU School of Nursing.

**Contributors:**
- Juliana Cartwright, PhD, RN
- Jane Hagan MN, RN
- Carla Hagen PhD, RN

A tool for faculty to assess and integrate gerontological content into their nursing curriculum using a set of nine gerontological nursing competencies.

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I. **Awareness**. Increase own and others’ awareness of attitudes, values and expectations about aging, and their impact on care of older adults and their families.

II. **Communication**. Communicate effectively, respectfully, and compassionately with older adults and their families/caregivers.

III. **Assessment**. Use appropriate assessments for the functional, physical, cognitive, psychological, social and spiritual status of older adults.

IV. **Adapting Care**. Plan, implement, and evaluate care that is adapted to meet the individual functional, physical, cognitive, psychological, social, and endurance capabilities of older adults.

V. **Maximizing Function**. Plan, implement, and evaluate care that assists older adults and their families/caregivers to meet personal goals, express preferences, maximize function, maintain desired level of autonomy and independence, and live in their chosen environment.

VI. **Optimal Aging**. Plan, implement, and evaluate care that promotes optimal aging.

VII. **Complex Decisions**. Guide older adults and their families/caregivers in making complex decisions that arise with aging.

VIII. **Organizational Systems**. Work effectively within and across organizational systems to promote quality care for older persons.

IX. **Advocacy**. Advocate for health, social, and financial needs of older adults at the policy level.

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