

2005

Enhancing the Geriatric Competence of Urologic Nurses

Karen A. Karlowicz
Old Dominion University, kkarlowi@odu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.odu.edu/nursing_fac_pubs



Part of the [Nursing Commons](#), and the [Urology Commons](#)

Original Publication Citation

Karlowicz, K. A. (2005). Enhancing the geriatric competence of urologic nurses. *Urologic Nursing*, 25(4), 246.

This Editorial is brought to you for free and open access by the Nursing at ODU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Nursing Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of ODU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@odu.edu.

Enhancing the Geriatric Competence of Urologic Nurses

A major health care issue facing the nation is the aging of the population. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging, the increasing numbers of older adults represent a social phenomenon in the United States and worldwide that has no historical precedence. As of 2002, the number of persons in the United States age 65 years or older was estimated to be 35.6 million, or 12.3% of the total population. This number is projected to double by 2030, when the number of older adults living in the United States is expected to reach 70 million, or 20% of the population. By 2050, it is projected that the global population of older persons will be larger than the population of children (0 to 14 years) for the first time in human history.

Nurse Competency in Aging

Given that more Americans are living longer, there is a need to ensure that nursing and other health care professions are adequately prepared to provide care to this special needs population. Through education, there is hope that strategies can be identified to help older adults remain active, engaged, and functionally independent while better managing the life changes, diseases, and disorders that come with aging. The question is: Are you competent to provide the care your geriatric clients deserve and need?

An initiative currently underway to address the educational needs of practicing nurses related to gerontology is titled *Nurse Competence in Aging* (NCA). The program is funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies (USA), Inc. and represents a strategic alliance between the American Nurses Association, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, and the John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing, New York University, The Steinhardt School of Education, Division of Nursing. It is targeted to professional nurses who are identified as members of specialty nursing organizations, many of whom graduated from entry-level nursing programs long before geriatric content was integrated into curriculums. The program is designed to enhance nursing competence by increasing knowledge and skills, and changing attitudes




Karen A. Karlowicz, EdD, RN

toward older adults. By developing the geriatric competence of nurses nationwide, it is believed that quality health care for older adults can be assured and improved.

A SUNA/NCA Initiative

SUNA was recently the recipient of a 2-year implementation grant that is part of the NCA initiative. *Urologic Nursing* is proud to have an integral role in the execution of the grant, with the Editorial Board committed to raising awareness of geriatric issues through articles that wholly or partially address care of older adults. Initially, you can expect to see:

- Continuing education (CE) articles that relate specifically to urologic care of the older adult (see page 249).
- Integration of geriatric issues into non-CE journal articles as appropriate.
- Publication of selected installments of the “Try This” series from the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing in select issues of *Urologic Nursing*. “Try This” provides information on a variety of assessment tools that represent the best practices in geriatric care, and are presented in a manner that is easily accessible, understood, and implemented.

Although care of older adults has long been the focus of many articles published in *Urologic Nursing*, the NCA grant provides the Editorial Board with a unique opportunity to sharpen its focus and increase its efforts to assure that journal readers are provided with timely information that can be readily applied to practice. The success of these strategies, however, depends upon the feedback received from journal readers. The Editorial Board invites letters to the journal detailing how you have used the geriatric information featured in journal articles to improve urologic nursing care. Only through this open dialogue can we be sure that *Urologic Nursing* has done its part to enhance nursing competence in aging. We look forward to hearing from you! 

Karen A. Karlowicz, EdD, RN
Editorial Board Member

Copyright of Urologic Nursing is the property of Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates, Inc.. The copyright in an individual article may be maintained by the author in certain cases. Content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.