

Managing Responsive Behaviour's in Long Term Care Facilities: Nurses' Experiences Pre-COVID-19

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Background

- Over half of those living in long term care facilities (LTCFs) have a diagnosis of dementia (Chambers, 2016).
- Managing responsive behaviour (RB) is one of the major difficulties when caring for persons living with dementia (Alzheimer Society of Ontario, 2016).
- Nonpharmacological Interventions (NPI's) are best practice for preventing and treating responsive behaviours (Alzheimer's Society International, 2017).
- NPI's are not always being used, with antipsychotic medications used in practice (Alzheimer's Society International, 2017).
- There are more than 60,000 nurses working in LTCFs across Canada (CIHI,2015).
- Little is known surrounding the nurse experience using NPI's in rural LTCFs.

Objective

To gain insight into how nurses are using NPI's in their practice to treat RB for persons living with dementia in rural LTCFs.

Preliminary Key Findings:

- **Nurses describe using distraction and redirection as the most common NPI for managing RBs.**
- **Nurses describe struggling in a complex environment and a lack of time and staff as barriers to using best practice.**

Methods

- Qualitative Description using Content Analysis (Bradshaw, 2017).
- NVIVO© software
- n = 7 semi-structured interviews
- Four separate LTC homes in rural SK
- RN(4); LPN(2); RPN(1)

Discussion

It's worth noting that this data does not consider isolation/lock down practices, social distancing in a communal setting, or staff with face coverings (masks) when providing care. With data collected prior to COVID-19, this study highlights existing, yet hidden complexities that impeded nurses' ability to provide best practice. To improve resident centered care for those living with dementia in long term care facilities, further investigation focussing on the barriers described by nurses, including lack of time and the triggering environment are warranted.

References: Alzheimer's Society International. (2017). Use of Antipsychotic Medications to Treat People with Dementia in Long-term Care Homes. Position Statement. Retrieved from: https://alzheimer.ca/sites/default/files/files/national/media-centre/asc_position_06072017_antipsychoticmeds_e.pdf; Alzheimer's Society of Ontario (2017). *What are responsive behaviors*. Retrieved from: <https://alzheimer.ca/en/on/We-can-help/Resources/Shifting-Focus/What-are-responsive-behaviours>; Bradshaw, C., Atkinson, S., & Doody, O. (2017). Employing a Qualitative Description Approach in Health Care Research. *Global Qualitative Nursing Research*, 4, 233339361774228. doi: 10.1177/2333393617742282; Canadian Institute for Health Information. (2015). Chartbook: Regulated Nurses. Retrieved from: <https://www.cihi.ca/en/document/chartbook-regulated-nurses-2015>; Chambers, L. W., Bancej, C., & Medowell, I. (2016). *The Alzheimer Society of Canada in collaboration with the Prevalence and Monetary Costs of Dementia in Canada Population Health Expert Panel*. Retrieved from www.alzheimer.ca;