

Nursing Education Research Conference 2018 (NERC18)

Education/Training in End-of-Life Care for Certified Nursing Assistants in Long-Term Care

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Background: The growth in the numbers of older adults in the United States warrants appropriately prepared health care providers at all levels that will be able to care for this population effectively. First line caregivers such as Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) need education and training in end of life care so that they can provide high quality care for residents and families in the long term care (LTC) setting. The inadequate education of CNAs as the first line caregivers of residents in LTC facilities as they face the challenges of end of life is a concern. The purpose of this quality improvement project was to improve the education and training of CNAs caring for residents in a LTC facility at the end of life.

Methods: CNAs were recruited from a long term care facility in Western New York to attend an educational intervention consisting of six 45 minute sessions on various topics selected by the researchers using the curriculum from *Core Curriculum for the Hospice and Palliative Nursing Assistant*. Pretests and posttests were given to assess changes in knowledge and a satisfaction survey was used for the CNAs to identify additional learning needs.

Results: Nineteen CNAs completed the six education and training sessions. Data analysis revealed a significant increase in knowledge for the participants. CNAs were also able to identify additional learning needs.

Conclusions: Significant improvement in knowledge was seen after attendance by CNAs at the educational intervention. CNAs working in LTC facilities need education and training in end of life care so that they can provide appropriate and effective care to residents and their families. Education and training for CNAs led to increased knowledge of end of life care and desire for more educational opportunities. Increased knowledge translates into improved care provided to residents and their families in the LTC setting. CNAs in this quality improvement project were able to apply the knowledge and training they had received to their daily tasks at work. This was a successful educational program for the CNAs who participated. All CNAs should have education and training on end of life care so that these caregivers are better prepared to care for the growing elderly population. CNAs should be considered valued partners with all health care providers, educated and prepared for their significant involvement in all aspects of resident and family care at the end of life.

Title:

Education/Training in End-of-Life Care for Certified Nursing Assistants in Long-Term Care

Keywords:

certified nursing assistants, education and training and end of life care

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Abstract Summary:

Education and training in end of life care was provided to CNAs working in a long term care setting. Assessment of pretests and posttests showed significant improvement in knowledge by CNAs attending all sessions of the educational intervention.

Content Outline:

Background: The growth in the numbers of older adults in the United States warrants appropriately prepared health care providers at all levels that will be able to care for this population effectively. First line caregivers such as Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) need education and training in end of life care so that they can provide high quality care for residents and families in the long term care (LTC) setting.

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Author Summary: Mansura Malik is a nurse, an educator, and a leader in nursing. She completed her doctoral work in end of life care and is passionate about educating nursing professionals.