



NZNO College of Gerontology Nurses monthly news bulletin Friday 7 August 2020

Consultation

NZNO consults with members on a range of issues. The full outline can be [found here](#)

New Zealand

Expert nurse steps down

AFTER spending more than 50 years nursing, the past 12 of which have been at Te Wiremu House, registered nurse Terry Rickard has stepped down from her role as the rest home's clinical services manager. [Read more](#)

Aged care nurses present petition asking for more funding

Dr Frances Hughes, chair of the New Zealand Aged Care Association Nursing Leadership Group, said that nurses in aged care look after the most ... [Read more](#)

Nurses oppose bed cuts for older mental health patients

The **New Zealand Nurses** Organisation said in a draft submission the bed cuts were "extremely concerning". The "older adult model of care" proposal ... [Read more](#)

Campaign For Mandatory Staff-to-resident Ratios In Aged Care Homes

With the support of Grey Power, E tū union and the **New Zealand Nurses** Organisation (NZNO) are launching an online open letter to Prime Minister, [Read more](#)

Hāwera Hospital patients benefiting from new occupational therapy kitchen

A purpose-built rehabilitation kitchen has given 89-year-old Betty Anderson the confidence to prepare her own meals again after she broke her hip in a nasty fall. [Read more](#)

Action plan to improve care for kuia, kaumātua in aged residential care

The Ministry of Health has released an action plan to address concerns and improve care for people living in aged residential care facilities. [Read more](#)

Over Half Our Kaumātua Vaccinated Against The Flu

More kaumātua have been vaccinated this year than ever before as the result of a push to get more Māori immunised against influenza, Associate Ministers of Health, Julie Anne Genter and Peeni Henare announced today. [Read more](#)

Organisations launch website to end loneliness

The New Zealand Coalition to End Loneliness has launched a website in a bid to provide a resource for people who are feeling lonely. [Read more](#)

Clinical issues

Hospital mobility programs can improve outcomes in older patients

A paper published today in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society reported results of an initiative designed to enhance implementation of hospital mobility programs aimed at improving quality of care and outcomes for older patients.

[Read more](#)

Webinar: Caring for complex older people

Dr Michal Boyd presented a webinar on Thursday 21 May 2020, 'Caring for complex older people: tips, tricks and tales from the trenches', in association with Mobile Health. [Read more](#)

Implementing a multidisciplinary approach for older adults with Cancer: geriatric oncology in practice.

Presley, C.J., Krok-Schoen, J.L., Wall, S.A. *et al.*

BMC Geriatr **20**, 231 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12877-020-01625-5>

Evidence-based practice in geriatric oncology is growing, and national initiatives have focused on expanding cancer care and research to improve health outcomes for older adults. However, there are still gaps between knowledge and practice for older adults with cancer. [Read more](#)

Validation of two nurse-based screening tools for delirium in elderly patients in general medical wards.

Bergjan, M., Zilezinski, M., Schwalbach, T. *et al.*

BMC Nurs **19**, 72 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12912-020-00464-4>

Delirium is an acute disturbance characterized by fluctuating symptoms related to attention, awareness and recognition. Especially for elderly patients, delirium is frequently associated with high hospital costs and resource consumption, worse functional deterioration and increased mortality rates. Early recognition of risk factors and delirium symptoms enables medical staff to prevent or treat negative effects. Most studies examining screening instruments for delirium were conducted in intensive care units and surgical wards, and rarely in general medical wards. The aim of the study is to validate the Nursing Delirium Screening Scale (Nu-DESC) and the Delirium Observation Screening Scale (DOS) in general medical wards in a German tertiary care hospital, considering predisposing delirium risk factors in patients aged 65 and older. [Read more](#)

Predictors of ED attendance in older patients with chronic disease: a data linkage study.

Xia Ting, Enticott Joanne, Pearce Christopher, Mazza Danielle, Turner Lyle R. (2020) *Australian Health Review* **44**, 550-556.

Objective Older people represent a large proportion of emergency department (ED) presentations, with multiple comorbidities a strong predictor of frequent attendance. This study examined associations between the general practice management received by older patients with chronic disease and ED attendance. [Read more](#)

Covid-19

Doug Wilson: protecting our elderly if Covid-19 returns to NZ

Our expert on ageing Doug Wilson's back with his take on how the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic will affect older New Zealanders and what we need to do to protect them should the virus start spreading again. [Read more](#)

Coronavirus: The 'troubling' attitude towards Covid 19 risk among Baby Boomers

Elderly people are most at risk of becoming seriously ill if infected with the coronavirus, and mortality rates spike after a particular age.

But new research into attitudes towards public health messaging shows Baby Boomers aren't getting the message about the need to take greater precautions

[Read more](#)

Should all aged-care residents with COVID-19 be moved to hospital? Probably, but there are drawbacks too

COVID-19 is continuing to devastate Victorian aged-care homes, with 1,435 active cases now linked to the sector, and at least 130 residents having died. [Read more](#)

Dementia and mental health

"The challenge of joining all the pieces together" – Nurses' experience of palliative care for older people with advanced dementia living in residential aged care units.

Pennbrant, S, Hjorton, C, Nilsson, C, Karlsson, M.

J Clin Nurs. 2020; 00: 1– 12. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.15415>

Aims and objectives

To describe nurses' experiences of palliative care for older people with advanced dementia living in residential aged care units. [Read more](#)

Hallucinations in Older Adults: A Practical Review,

Johanna C Badcock, ... et al

Schizophrenia Bulletin, , sbaa073, <https://doi.org/10.1093/schbul/sbaa073>

Older adults experience hallucinations in a variety of social, physical, and mental health contexts. Not everyone is open about these experiences, as hallucinations are surrounded with stigma. Hence, hallucinatory experiences in older individuals are often under-recognized. They are also commonly misunderstood by service providers, suggesting that there is significant scope for improvement in the training and practice of professionals working with this age group. The aim of the present article is to increase knowledge about hallucinations in older adults and provide a practical resource for the health and aged-care workforce. Specifically, we provide a concise narrative review and critique of (1) workforce competency and training issues, (2) assessment tools, and (3) current treatments and management guidelines. We conclude with a brief summary including suggestions for service and training providers and future research. [Read more](#)

Exploring the Barriers and Gateways to Intersubjectivity in Dementia Care: A Meta-Ethnography.

Hodge, G., Froggatt, K., Limmer, M. and Bingley, A. (2020),

J Clin Nurs. Accepted Author Manuscript. doi:[10.1111/jocn.15439](https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.15439)

Behaviours that challenge in dementia, often described and diagnosed as Behavioural Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD) are experienced by 75% of people living with dementia in care homes or hospital environments, with 43% of nurses and care providers reporting these behaviours as moderately or severely distressing to them. During behaviours that challenge moments in dementia there is the potential for an intersubjective relationship to take place between the people living with dementia and the nurse. [Read more](#)

The article below is not freely available but may be sourced via the NZNO library or a DHB or educational institution

How can I ensure dementia care is evidence-based?

Julie Willoughby

[Nursing Older People. 32, 4, 13-13. doi: 10.7748/nop.32.4.13.s6](https://doi.org/10.7748/nop.32.4.13.s6)

The critically appraised topic approach is being used in dementia care to help ensure clinical practice is based on the most up-to-date evidence

As with any area of clinical practice, providing safe, effective and high-quality dementia care should be based on the best available research evidence. However, traditional, outdated practice often continues regardless of new or updated findings, with the justification: 'This is the way it's always been done.'

Changing needs in advanced dementia

Margaret Brown, Debbie Tolson, Louise Ritchie

Nursing Older People. doi: 10.7748/nop.2020.e1204

This is the first article in a six-part series in *Nursing Older People* exploring the nursing care of people living with advanced dementia. This article discusses the changes that may occur as dementia progresses, from the perspective of the individual, their family and other carers.

A person living with advanced dementia is likely to experience physical, cognitive and social changes that can be profound and debilitating. Healthcare needs intensify as new and co-existing issues result in increasing dependency on others for support with activities of daily living. These activities can include eating, drinking, mobility and personal care.

Consequently, family carers may find their role has to develop and change to provide increasing support in response to these complex needs. These increasing needs can result in care transitions to hospitals or care homes. Careful and collaborative management of care is crucial to maintain quality of life for the person with dementia and family carers.

Falls management

The article below is not freely available but may be sourced from databases available via the NZNO library or those of a DHB or educational institution

Efficiency gains from a standardised approach to older people presenting to the emergency department after a fall.

Arendts Glenn, Leyte Naomi, Dumas Sandra, Ahamed Shabana, Khokulan Vethanjaly, Wahbi Ouday, Lomman Andrea, Hughes David, Clayden Vanessa, Mandal Bhaskar (2020)

Australian Health Review 44, 576-581. <https://doi.org/10.1071/AH19187>

Objective Falls are a major cause of hospital-related costs in people aged ≥65 years. Despite this, falls are often seen as trivial and given low priority in an emergency department (ED), especially in the absence of overt major injury. ED systems that care for falls patients are often inefficient. The aims of this study were to: (1) design and implement a standardised and systematic approach to patients presenting to an ED after a fall; and (2) achieve hospital efficiency gains, such as reduced hospital length of stay, through implementation of this approach.

Healthy ageing (social, nutrition, quality of life)

Physical activity of older people requires tailored monitoring

The ability to move about may deteriorate when aging, a phenomenon which needs to be considered when assessing physical activity in older people. [Read more](#)

Articles of interest

The necessity and possibilities of playfulness in narrative care with older adults.

Blix, BH, Berendonk, C, Clandinin, DJ, Caine, V.

Nurs Inq. 2020; 00:e12373. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nin.12373>

For us, narrative care is grounded in pragmatist philosophy and focused on experience. Narrative care is not merely about acknowledging or listening to people's experiences, but draws attention to practical consequences. We conceptualize care itself as an intrinsically narrative endeavour. In this article, we build on Lugones' understanding of playfulness, particularly to her call to remain attentive to a sense of uncertainty, and an openness to surprise. Playfulness cultivates a generative sense of curiosity that relies on a close attentiveness not only to the other, but to who we each are within relational spaces. Generative curiosity is only possible if we remain playful as we engage and think with experiences and if we remain responsive to the other. Through playfulness, we resist dominant narratives and hold open relational spaces that create opportunities of retelling and reliving our experiences. Drawing on our work alongside older adults, as well as people who work in long-term care, we show the possibilities of playfulness in the co-composition of stories across time. By intentionally integrating playfulness, narrative care can be seen as an intervention, as well as a human activity, across diverse social contexts, places and times. [Read more](#)

The articles below are not freely available but may be sourced via databases available through DHBs, academic institutions or NZNO library

Association between continuity of nursing care and older adults' hospitalization outcomes: A retrospective observational study.

Tonkikh, O, Zisberg, A, Shadmi, E.

J Nurs Manag. 2020; 00: 1– 8. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ionm.13031>

Aim

To assess the relationship between continuity in nursing assignment in older adults' acute hospitalization and patient experience and functional decline.

Background

In-hospital functional decline affects up to 40% of hospitalized older adults. Nurses are responsible for performing functioning-preserving interventions. Whether continuity of nursing care contributes to patients' functional outcomes is unclear.

How to ... develop recordkeeping skills

Adrian Ashurst

Nursing and Residential Care, Vol. 22, No. 5: 1-2.

During the coronavirus outbreak, events will move fast, and a home may find itself facing unexpected incidents and adjustments to care plans. Effective recordkeeping is essential. Adrian Ashurst outlines the basics for developing these skills

The above bulletin has been compiled by Linda Stopforth, SNIPS, on behalf of NZNO College of Gerontology Nursing.

It is provided on the first Friday of each month and contains an overview of news items, articles and research papers of interest to the Section members.

All links are current at the time of being compiled and distributed.

For feedback please contact your section

administrator: nznogerontology@gmail.com

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Linda Stopforth, BA, Dip Bus; NZLSC, RLIANZA

PO Box 315 WELLINGTON 6140

PH: 04-383-6931 or 021-107-2455

email: stop4th@xtra.co.nz



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