



**NZNO College of Gerontology Nursing
monthly news bulletin
Friday 5 February 2021**

Consultation

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

New Zealand

Retirement village operator Arvida Group adopts strict new Covid job hiring policy

One of New Zealand's largest retirement village and aged-care providers is making it compulsory for new staff to be vaccinated against Covid-19. [Read more](#)

CapTel decision 'pulls the rug out' for hearing-impaired Kiwis

Judy Tinnock will turn 90 in February, but it seems unlikely that her son will be able to call and wish her happy birthday.

That's because the CapTel telephone she needs to communicate is being decommissioned at the end of January. CapTel phones relay conversations through a transcriber so that people with hearing difficulties can still receive calls. [Read more](#)

Covid-19

Concerns vaccine rollout won't prioritise aged care sector

Oceania Healthcare General Manager of **Nursing** and Clinical Strategy Dr Frances Hughes joins Mike Hosking to discuss the issue. LISTEN ABOVE. [Read more](#)

COVID-19 and residential aged care: priorities for optimising preparation and management of outbreaks

Georgia E Aitken, Alice L Holmes and Joseph E Ibrahim
Med J Aust 2021; 214 (1): 6-8.e1. || doi: 10.5694/mja2.50892

Recommendations to guide residential aged care facilities in preparing for and managing infectious disease outbreaks

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is devastating the residential aged care facility (RACF; eg, care homes, nursing homes, long term care) population. Globally, older people living in RACFs comprise almost half (47%) of all deaths from COVID-19,¹ which now exceeds 1.4 million deaths (at 27 November 2020).² [Read more](#)

Age is not the only risk factor in COVID-19: the role of comorbidities and of long staying in residential care homes.

D'ascanio, M., Innammorato, M., Pasquariello, L. *et al.*
BMC Geriatr 21, 63 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12877-021-02013-3>

The actual SARS-CoV-2 outbreak caused a highly transmissible disease with a tremendous impact on elderly people. So far, few studies focused on very elderly patients (over 80 years old). In this study we examined the clinical presentation and the outcome of the disease in this group of patients, admitted to our Hospital in Rome. [Read more](#)

Dementia and mental health

Alzheimer's disease and Lewy body dementia: Discerning the differences.

As the U.S. population ages, the risk for age-related illnesses such as Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia increases. According to Lang and colleagues, about 50% of individuals with dementia are undiagnosed. When dementia is diagnosed early, opportunities to address it increase. These opportunities include pursuing health behaviors that reduce progression, initiating medications earlier to help moderate symptoms and to potentially slow progression, as well as participating in research and advanced care planning. Nurses in all settings must increase their knowledge and understanding of dementia to ensure early detection. [Read more](#)

The perspectives of people with dementia on their future, end of life, and on being cared for by others: A qualitative study.

Bolt, S.R., van der Steen, J.T., Khemai, C., Schols, J.M., Zwakhalen, S.M. and Meijers, J.M. (2021),

Journal of Clinical Nursing. Accepted Author

Manuscript. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.15644>

Aims and objectives

To explore the perspectives of people with dementia on being cared for by others, on the future and on the end of life, and to evaluate the capability and willingness of participants to have these conversations.

Background

Awareness about perspectives of people with dementia should decrease stigmatization and improve their quality of life. Applying palliative care principles from an early stage is important to address diverse needs and to anticipate the future. Few studies investigate perspectives of people with dementia regarding palliative care, including advance care planning. [Read more](#)

Defining empowerment for older people living with dementia from multiple perspectives: A qualitative study,

Charlotte T.M. van Corven, Annemiek Bielderman, Mandy Wijnen, ... et al

International Journal of Nursing Studies,

Volume 114, 2021, 103823, ISSN 0020-7489,

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijnurstu.2020.103823>.

The concept of empowerment seems promising for people living with dementia to live their life as they want to for as long as possible. Therefore, this study aimed to explore what the concept of empowerment means and includes for people living with dementia from the perspectives of people living with dementia themselves, their informal caregivers, and healthcare professionals. [Read more](#)

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

Learning and leadership in advanced dementia care.

Macrae R, Duffy FJR, Brown M et al (2020)

Nursing Older People. [doi: 10.7748/nop.2020.e1189](https://doi.org/10.7748/nop.2020.e1189)

This article, part of a series in Nursing Older People exploring the nursing care of people living with advanced dementia, considers learning and leadership. It outlines learning opportunities about advanced dementia and what developments are needed. The need for strong leadership at all levels and settings is explored along with the challenges of educating those who care for the person with advanced dementia. It also outlines educational opportunities and programmes before illustrating how one nurse leads advanced dementia care in practice.

Developing a dementia care leaders' toolkit for older patients with cognitive impairment.

Abley C (2020)

Nursing Older People. [doi: 10.7748/nop.2020.e1250](https://doi.org/10.7748/nop.2020.e1250)

A recent review of the progress that has been made in meeting the government's Challenge on Dementia 2020 detailed the variability, and in some cases suboptimal quality, of hospital care for people with dementia. The review also identified the need for improvements in assessing the individual needs of people with dementia while in hospital, including their emotional and social needs. This article focuses on the development and implementation of an evidence-based toolkit to improve the hospital care of older patients with cognitive impairment, including dementia and/or delirium. The toolkit's focus is on optimising the patient experience of people with cognitive impairment who have been admitted to hospital. The toolkit also promotes the importance of person-centred care and communication skills

Holistic pain assessment in older people and older people living with dementia.

Gregory J (2021)

Nursing Older People. [doi: 10.7748/nop.2021.e1293](https://doi.org/10.7748/nop.2021.e1293)

This article provides an overview of pain assessment in older people, particularly those living with dementia, based on the author's expertise and on relevant literature, notably the recently revised UK national guidelines on the assessment of pain in older people.

Elder abuse

Breaking the cycle of elder abuse with a frontline response

Researchers at the University of Queensland are working with social workers and international experts to develop a national, unified framework for identifying victims of elder abuse who present to hospitals. [Read more](#)

Healthy ageing (social, nutrition, quality of life)

'Aging well' greatly affected by hopes and fears for later life

If you believe you are capable of becoming the healthy, engaged person you want to be in old age, you are much more likely to experience that outcome, a recent study shows [Read more](#)

Nutrition and hydration

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

An appealing meal: creating conditions for older persons' mealtimes – a focus group study with healthcare professionals.

Blomberg, K., Wallin, A.-M. and Odencrants, S. (2021),

J Clin Nurs. Accepted Author Manuscript. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.15643>

Health care professionals' knowledge and attitudes may have an impact on older persons' nutritional status. Therefore, it is important to explore different health care professionals' perspectives on older persons' meals.

Microbiological analysis of water and thickeners used for people with dysphagia

Elizabeth Boaden, Lois Thomas, Susan Higham, and Caroline Watkins
Nursing and Residential Care, Vol. 23, No. 1: 1-10.

Thickened fluids are a recognised intervention strategy in use for people with dysphagia. However, their bacterial profile has not previously been examined.

Aims:

To identify bacteria and changes in bacterial profiles in a range of water sources and thickener preparations over a 5-day period.

Pharmacy and medication management

Educating Homecare Nurses about Deprescribing of Medications to Manage Polypharmacy for Older Adults.

Sun W, Tahsin F, Abbass Dick J, et al.

Western Journal of Nursing Research. January 2021.

doi:[10.1177/0193945920982599](https://doi.org/10.1177/0193945920982599)

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the acceptability, appropriateness, and effectiveness of educational intervention with homecare nurses about deprescribing of medications among older adults. An evaluation research study was conducted using survey design to evaluate deprescribing education with a total sample of 45 homecare nurses from three homecare organizations. Post-training evaluation data were evaluated using Likert scale and open-ended questions were analysed using descriptive statistical analyses and qualitative thematic analysis. Post-intervention questionnaire responses provided descriptions about homecare nurses' perspectives related to deprescribing education, as well as the effectiveness of training in addressing their knowledge gaps. The pilot-testing of deprescribing learning modules and educational training revealed acceptability and suitability for future scale-up to expand its future reach and adoption by other homecare organizations. This study provided important implications into the barriers that impact the effectiveness of deprescribing education, and facilitators that support the future refinement of learning modules. [Read more](#)

Primary care

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

Nurse-to-nurse collaboration between nurses caring for older people in hospital and primary health care: A cross-sectional study.

Lemetti, T., Puukka, P., Stolt, M. and Suhonen, R. (2021),

Journal of Clinical Nursing. Accepted Author

Manuscript. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.15664>

Aims and objectives

To assess the level of nurse-to-nurse collaboration during the transfer of older people between hospital and primary health care and to evaluate the psychometric properties of the newly-developed Nurse-to-Nurse Collaboration Between Sectors Instrument.

Background

Nurse-to-nurse collaboration are required when older people transfer between hospital and primary health care to enhances the safety and continuity of care to patients. There is a lack of evidence about the nature and level of this collaboration.

Residential care

How Elderly Residents in Nursing Homes Handle Loneliness—From the Nurses' Perspective.

Naik Mhs, Ueland P.

SAGE Open Nursing. January 2020. doi:[10.1177/2377960820980361](https://doi.org/10.1177/2377960820980361)

Elderly people who leave their home environment and move to a nursing home enter a phase in life with diminishing contact with family and friends. This situation often results in a feeling of loneliness with a concomitant deterioration in physical and mental health. By exploring the topic through the lens of the nurses, this study takes a novel approach to address an under-researched area in the nursing field.

[Read more](#)

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Sustainable implementation of person-centred care in residential care facilities: hindering and supporting factors when improving incontinence care

Eirini Alexiou, Irma Lindström Kjellberg, and Helle Wijk

Nursing and Residential Care, Vol. 23, No. 1: 1-14.

The aim of the present study was to focus on the impact of the implementation of a person-centred approach on staff perception of the likelihood of being able to provide person-centred care and strain in the workplace.

Cultural safety

LGBT Care for Older Adults and Serious Illness: Podcast with Carey Candrian & Angela Primbas

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults have lived through a lifetime of discrimination, social stigma, prejudice, and marginalization. Is the care that we are giving them in later life changing any of that or are we pushing them back into the closet?

This is what we talk about in this week's podcast with Carey Candrian from the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and Angela Primbas from Stanford University (and future geriatrics fellow at UCSF!). [Read more](#)

Workforce

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

Development of a Long-Term Care Nurse Residency Program

Sarah Neller,; Cynthia Beynon,; Nanci McLeskey, ... et al

Journal of Gerontological Nursing. 2021;47(2):37-43

<https://doi.org/10.3928/00989134-20210113-03>

Nurses working in the long-term care (LTC) setting provide increasingly complex patient care, often without formal training on the specific needs of LTC patients, which can lead to burnout and high turnover rates. Nurse residency programs (NRPs) have been used effectively to orient novice RNs to their work setting, address transition-to-practice challenges, and promote retention, yet few LTC NRPs have

been developed. The University of Utah Geriatric Education Consortium Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program created an online LTC NRP to provide LTC nurses with the knowledge and skills to succeed in the LTC environment. RNs with <1 year of LTC experience were paired with experienced nurse mentors working within the same LTC facility. Synchronous and asynchronous curricular modules addressed leadership and communication, caring for older adult patients, quality improvement, and the LTC regulatory environment. A distance-based LTC NRP allows nurses flexibility in gaining gerontological nursing and leadership expertise that supports their professional goals. [Journal of Gerontological Nursing, 47(2), 37–43.]

News letters, reports and publications

An old age problem? How society shapes and reinforces negative attitudes to ageing “Utilising a discourse analysis approach¹, this report looks at the language used by national government, news and social media, advertising, ageing focused charities and health and social care organisations in relation to the topics of age, ageing and demographic change. This paper is based on research conducted by Savanta ComRes and Equally Ours. It is part of a wider programme of work at Ageing Better, in collaboration with Age-Friendly Manchester, to examine how ageing and demographic change are talked about in society, with the aim of shifting to a more positive and realistic narrative.” Source: Centre for Ageing Better UK.

[Read more](#)

Articles of interest

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

Dignity, well-being and identity: a qualitative study of older people’s interpretations of how healthcare workers speak to them.

Draper P, Hilton A (2020)

Nursing Older People. doi: 10.7748/nop.2020.e1261

Background The initial interaction between an older person and a nurse, and how the older person interprets this interaction, is important and sometimes overlooked.

Evidence suggests that the way healthcare workers speak to older people can negatively affect older people’s well-being.

Aim To interview community-dwelling older people aged ≥65 years who had recently held a conversation with a healthcare worker and to understand the meanings older people attributed to these conversations.

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

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 College members.

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

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