



Creation and Sustainment of a Specialized Geriatric Unit: Nurses Leading the Way

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Summary: Within a medical unit of a tertiary academic medical center, a multispecialty project team, led by staff nurses, was established to create and implement a unit dedicated to improving the overall quality of care provided to geriatric patients while simultaneously improving staff satisfaction. Over the past 2 years, this unit has grown to 30 beds, developed over 45 geriatric resources nurses, and sustained positive outcomes. This presentation highlights our journey from inception to present time, including the staff development, geriatric protocols developed, outcomes, and barriers.

Nursing Implications:

- Implementation and use of individualized protocols in the care of geriatric patients can improve quality of care.
- Improving patient mobility can improve patient outcomes.
- Geographically clustering patient assignments can help to decrease falls and improve patient satisfaction.

Key Takeaways:

- Geriatric patients require specialized care within the acute care environment.
- Nurses working in this specialized care area have been able to provide higher quality of personalized care.
- Nurse involvement and engagement in projects and unit decision making can help to increase staff overall satisfaction.

Link: <https://library.amsn.org/amsn/sessions/5123/view>

References:

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