PIII-34: A Web-based Dementia Feeding Skills Training Module for Nursing Home Staff

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Abstract:
Introduction: Preparing the workforce to care for older adults with dementia in the nursing home (NH) is approaching a critical state. By all accounts, we are lacking adequate numbers of geriatric-prepared staff and the number of residents living in NHs will double to 3 million by 2030. An area where training is particularly needed is in the assistance of feeding persons with dementia (PWD) who have feeding dependency. The aims of this proposed pilot study are to determine feasibility of a web-based training module with NH staff for residents with late-stage dementia. Staff outcomes are to improve knowledge of feeding PWD, self-efficacy, and feeding skills. Resident outcomes are to decrease disruptive resident mealtime behavior, maintain or increase food intake, decrease time for feeding, and improve quality of life.

Method(s): Two similar southeastern NH will be randomized by cluster. Inclusion criteria include NH staff willing to sign informed consent working shifts when meals are served. PWD must be 60 + years of age, have a legally authorized representative (LAR) willing to provide authorized consent, be a continuous resident of the NH for 6 weeks prior to onset of the study, have a diagnosis of dementia in the medical record with a MMSE of 12 or less, FAST score of 7a or greater, need assistance with eating requiring an active feeding intervention, and no documentation of gross aspiration. Exclusion criteria for the PWD include a diagnosis of other neurodegenerative disease (e.g., Parkinson’s), resident currently on Speech Therapy caseload for swallowing difficulty, or evidence in the Advanced Directive indicating administration of food/fluids via feeding tube. NH staff will complete a pre- and post-test on knowledge, self-efficacy and feeding skills checklist. For the PWD, a MMSE and Functional Assessment Staging will be
collected at baseline. Other measures for PWD include the Quality of Life in Alzheimer’s Disease, Edinburgh Feeding Evaluation in Dementia Scale, and weights at baseline and weekly intervals for one month.

**Results:** Data will be analyzed through descriptive statistics and t-tests.

**Discussion & Conclusions:** The proposed study findings will also be used to build other training modules for building geriatric competence in the long-term care workforce.

**Abstract History:**

**Financial Disclosure:**
Yes, I (or a member of my immediate family) have received something of value* from or own stock (or stock options) in a commercial company or institution related directly or indirectly to the subject of my presentation. John A. Hartford Foundation BAGNC Scholar, Research or institutional support, other activities (specify), J. Richard Corbett Charitable Trust, Research or institutional support, other activities (specify)

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I will not be describing any pharmaceutical and/or medical device.

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