

"Creating a Senior Friendly Hospital"

by Manuela Maria Carvalho

Supervisor: Dr. Gail Mitchell

Abstract

According to current Canadian Statistics, seniors are the most frequent users of health care services, including utilization of acute care hospital services (Statistics Canada, 2007). The elderly are noted to have the longest lengths of stay in health care organizations and the highest costs per capita (Gross & Schwenger, 1981). With the ever growing senior population and the demand on healthcare organizations and nursing, hospitals are now assessing the unique needs of older individuals and examining how to move forward in adapting to their needs. In this review I will identify the gaps in organizational senior-friendly care, as identified in the literature, and I will propose changes needed for hospitals to become senior-friendly from a human becoming perspective. The review will focus on what is important to elderly patients during their time in acute care hospitals. Preliminary review indicates that seniors feel that younger people need to be more educated about the elderly and that the concept of social change is meaningless if the people for whom the change is contemplated are not involved (Institute for Health Care Facilities of the Future, 1990).

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