

LONG TERM CARE NURSES' KNOWLEDGE OF BEHAVIORAL SYMPTOMS  
EXPERIENCED BY RESIDENTS WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

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LTC Nurse's Knowledge

The behavioral symptoms associated with Alzheimer's disease (AD) are burdensome to the entire healthcare system and to family caregivers. The risk for AD increases with age, subsequently increasing the demand for professionals, skilled in the care of AD residents. The purpose of this study is to describe the Long Term Care (LTC) nurse's knowledge of behavioral symptoms experienced by residents with AD.

An experimental pre-test posttest design will be used. A convenience sample of LTC facilities will be approached to participate in the study. Those agreeing to participate will be randomly assigned to either the treatment group or the control group. Seventy LTC nurse subjects are needed for the treatment group and the control group. The treatment group will receive a teaching intervention about behavioral symptoms experienced by AD residents and the control group will view a video about AD behavioral symptoms. The subject's knowledge of behavioral symptoms experienced by residents with AD will be tested prior to the intervention and immediately following the intervention. Scores will be examined for differences within and between groups.