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Abstract Keynote

Title	Safe care for older hospitalized patients, development of a senior care program
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Abstract

Background: One of the ten themes of the Dutch safety program is: Prevention of unintended avoidable damage in older hospitalized patients with special attention for delirium, fall prevention, decreased mobility and malnutrition. The final aim is to prevent functional decline in older hospitalized patients. Hospitalization can be a risk for older patients because 30-60% will develop functional decline following hospital admission. This results in prolonged length of stay, decreased autonomy, functional dependency and increased use of health care facilities. Because the proportion of older individuals is increasing, we expect an increase in the number of older patients admitted to the hospital, and the need to prevent functional decline and decrease length of stay is a priority for health care professionals.

Objective: to develop an evidence based program to prevent functional decline in older hospitalized patients

Methods: A project was organized in an academic service partnership in which participated a University Medical Center and a University of Applied Sciences. The program is based on evidence from the literature, existing protocols and guidelines and expertise of staff nurses and clinical nurse specialists and the advice of experts. First, a literature study on each of the steps was conducted by the students. When available, existing guidelines and protocols were also studied. Secondly, based on the literature, the three steps were described and discussed within the student group and with the project leaders. This resulted in a draft that was discussed in the first Delphi round with the nursing research panel, and the draft was adjusted accordingly. The draft was then presented to the managers and clinical nurse specialists and experts from inside and outside the hospital for review. The revised version was discussed and adjusted in a second Delphi round with the nursing research panel, and its applicability was judged. After approval by the managers, the steering committee finally agreed on the different products.