

Critical Review:

Do person-centered communication strategies for individuals with dementia residing in long-term care settings enhance staff-resident interactions and quality of life for these individuals and their caregivers?*

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This critical review examines the efficacy of person-centered communication strategies when implemented with individuals with dementia in long-term care in order to improve staff-resident interactions and the quality of life of these individuals and their formal caregivers. Seven articles were included in this review: three randomized control trials, two single-group pre-posttest designs, and one single-group post-test design. Overall, the results of these studies provide strongly suggesti65.02 TmBnc3

** This paper was created as a required assignment for the CSD9639 Evidence Based Practice for Clinicians course at Western. While it has been evaluated by course instructors for elements of accuracy and style, it has not undergone formal peer-review.*

Methods

Search Strategy

Articles related to the topic of interest were found using the following computerized databases: PubMed, SCOPUS, and CINAHL. Keywords used for the database search were as follows: (dementia) AND (person-centered) AND ((communication) OR (quality of life)). Reference lists of articles were manually searched for additional studies relevant to this critical review.

Selection Criteria

Studies selected for inclusion in this critical review were limited to articles that included communication skills intervention or similar interventions that were consistent with the principles of person-centered communication outlined by Kitwood (1997). Studies were also limited to those that included residents in long-term care or

utterances remained constant across both speaking situations, and included dementia-related language impairments such as word-finding problems and repetition.

After reading each pair of conversations, staff were asked to rate the extent to which the staff member in the first conversation depicted a certain behavior or characteristic compared to

Clinical Implications

Based on this critical review of the evidence, it can be concluded that person-centered communication strategies, when taught to formal caregivers in long-term care facilities, can have a positive impact on multiple aspects of both staff-resident interactions and QOL of caregivers and residents with dementia. It is also important to note that this type of intervention appeared to be feasible, as it did not result in increased time to provide care to residents while using person-centered communication strategies as opposed to a directive task-focused communication style (Burgio et al., 2001). It is believed that this evidence is sufficient to provide a rationale for a speech-language pathologist or other professional to implement such an intervention in long-term care settings.

References

Bradford, L. S. (2009). Impact of an Elderspeak Educational Program on Nursing Home Resident Well-being, Self-Concept, and Communication Satisfaction (Dissertation). Xavier University. ProQuest LLC. United States.

Burgio, L. D., Allen-