
Grace Peterson Nursing Research Colloquium

Impact of Implementing Delirium Precautions on Pharmacological and Non-Pharmacological Interventions in a Veteran Inpatient Hospice Population

Zoe Palisoc
zpalisoc0605@yahoo.com

Kevin Bacigalupo
Edward Hines Jr. Veterans Administration Medical Center

Emily Ellsworth
Edward Hines Jr. Veterans Administration Medical Center

Seema Limaye
Edward Hines Jr. Veterans Administration Medical Center

Kavita Palla
Edward Hines Jr. Veterans Administration Medical Center

See next page for additional authors

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Presenter Information

Zoe Palisoc, Kevin Bacigalupo, Emily Ellsworth, Seema Limaye, Kavita Palla, Katie J. Suda, and Joyce M. Wang

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Terminal delirium (TD) is an irreversible condition characterized by extreme agitation and distress at end of life. Difficult to identify and treat due to lack of knowledge and awareness of risk factors for development, TD is a common occurrence which negatively impacts the patient's last days of life. Approximately one-fourth of all Americans who die each year are veterans and 20% of this population die in Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities. Identified risk factors for the development of TD specific to an inpatient hospice veteran population led to the development of terminal delirium precaution orders for close monitoring of its manifestations. This retrospective study, to the best of the authors' knowledge, is the first study to be performed in an in-patient Veteran hospice setting and aims to assess the predictive value of identified risk factors for TD. The study also aims to assess the impact of implementing delirium precaution orders on patients at risk for TD as well as the non-pharmacological and pharmacological interventions used to manage patients with terminal delirium.

Keywords: delirium, terminal, hospice, end of life, documentation