

Elderly abuse in a long-term care service- an overview



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LIMITATIONS OF ABUSE PREVALENCE ESTIMATES AND NEGLECT IN LONG-TERM CARE SETTINGS



U.S.A.*	Romania
-Existing estimates are based on reports to a multiplicity of agencies, each of which uses different definitions, investigative protocols, and standards of proof	-Lack of methodical reports -Lack of standards / protocols -Lack of centralized reporting system
-Difficulties to distinguish incidents involving abuse and neglect from the natural consequences of multiple chronic diseases and disabilities experienced by long-term care residents.	-Idem -Ignore or treat lightly the signs / signals of abuse
-Significant underreporting by health care professionals, residents and families	-Reporting is the exception

*Elder abuse in Long Term Care Settings:What is known and what informations in needed;C.Hawes, 2001,

Synopsis on the abuse in long – term care unit (personal experience)



<i>Type of abuse</i>	<i>Situation in long term care unit</i>
PHISICAL	CERTAIN
SEXUAL	LIKELY
EMOTIONAL	CERTAIN
FINANCIAL	CERTAIN
NEGLECT	PRESUMABLE**
INSTITUTIONAL	LIKELY

**** Hawes & al , 2001 identify situations that could be considered forms of neglect
Could be considered forms of neglect in Ro.?**

U.S.A.	Romania-long term care unit
no oral/dental care	It is not a part of current care
not doing range of motion exercises	Understaffed ; is done in selected cases
not changing residents each time they are wet after an episode of incontinence	Limited 3 diapers / day
ignoring residents who are bedfast, particularly not offering activities to them	Not available staff for offering activities to bedridden persons
doing a one-person transfer when the resident requires a two-person transfer	Sometimes there is only one caregiver per shift , 30 people
taking no action on the resident's request	Unacceptable

Possible causes of the inadequate management of the cases of abuse and neglect in long-term care units :



- insufficient training, particularly for care staff;
- absence of procedures in institutions and also on national level for detecting , reporting and fighting abuse and neglect.
- insufficient care staff (maximum 2 nurses / shift / 30 people)
- physical and mental exhaustion
- a lack of psycho - emotional support to prevent burn- out situations
- ineffective supervision of the carers
- small salary, not motivating competent staff and professional aspirations

Examples of abuse in a long-term care unit :



- 1. Abuse of an employee** : a female carer asks a young patient (woman, 40 years) with mental distress (schizophrenia) to perform personal hygiene to immobilized patients(men)
- 2. Abuse of a relative** : Woman in persistent vegetative state, whose father was allowed to be involved in his daughter caring .He was seen making genital hygiene in an inadequate way...
- 3. Beneficiary- beneficiary abuse** : A lady- resident complains about sexual assault by a resident; The investigation proves that the two were involved in sexual affair, but the women reported an assault because she had altercation with the partner
- 4. Institutional Abuse** : In the past, lack of discipline , even minor, were " punished " by raising the permission to leave the unit

What to do ? in the long – term care unit



- Define internal procedures in order to identify the abuse, procedures to act when identifying abuse
- Systematic application of questionnaires directed at identification of abuse against residents
- Education / personnel training
- Information of the beneficiaries / families
- Profound investigation of any situation that raises suspicion of abuse
- Lobby on granting authority to increase the allocation of human and material resources, designed to remove some of the possible causes of abuse and neglect
- Networking to organizations and institutions who have authority in policy development, legislation and operational measures in preventing and combating abuse against elderly



~~ELDER
ABUSE~~