Developing and Implementing Restorative Nursing Programs

January 25, 2018

OHCA Office
Lewis Center, Ohio
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Date & Location:
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Restorative nursing programs affect quality of life, survey, reimbursement, and resident/family choice. These programs are vital to your facility's success, your residents' ability to thrive and a facility staff's job satisfaction. Quality of life is a natural outcome of restorative care.

Resident centered, whole person restorative nursing care is more important now than it has ever been. OBRA 1987 required skilled nursing facilities to identify and act on risk factors to prevent functional decline in residents. It included a mandate for facilities to allow only medically unavoidable declines, and facilities are expected to plan care that will delay any decline in resident function. Functional decline can lead to depression, withdrawal, social isolation, and complications of immobility such as incontinence and pressure ulcers. Many of the changes that occurred with the MDS 3.0 directly or indirectly relate to restorative nursing.

When the Resource Utilization Groups (RUG's) were initiated, restorative nursing programs became part of Medicare reimbursement. In many states they are also a part of Medicaid reimbursement.

In March of 2011, the National Quality Forum released 21 measures for public reporting and quality improvement that will be used at the Nursing Home Compare website. Both long and short stay residents are included in this data.

Several measures will affect restorative nursing programs. These measures include:

- Percentage of residents who need increased help with ADL's
- Physical therapy or restorative nursing for long stay residents with a new balance problem
- Percentage of long term residents experiencing one or more falls with major injury
- Percentage of low risk residents who lose control of their bowels or bladder
- Percentage of long term residents who have a catheter inserted and left in the bladder

For restorative nursing programs to be effective and profitable, attention to – and support for – restorative nursing must come from the top. The administrator, director of nurses, and therapy director must be on board. A facility-wide culture of restorative nursing must be present.

Act now and get everyone on board with this comprehensive educational program, and ensure your facility is offering resident centered restorative nursing programs to improve, maintain, or slow decline in resident function in a positive culture environment.

Continuing Education Credit:
This program has been approved for six (6.0) hours of continuing education credit for nurses and nursing home administrators.