

Title: Identifying the Experiences and Perceptions of Certified Nursing Assistants Working in Long-Term Care Facilities Caring for Older Adults

Author: Daniela Ilcenco, Doctor of Nursing Practice candidate at Regis College, Weston, Massachusetts, United States of America

Abstract

It is crucial to recognize the value of researching the perspectives and opinions of Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) to enhance the standard of care for older adults residing in long-term care facilities (LTCFs). Little is known about the CNAs' experiences and beliefs regarding working with older adults. This project intended to cover this gap and was designed to explore the population of CNAs. This project aimed to identify themes for further research. This project intended to find clues to design appropriate interventions to improve the quality of care provided to older adults residing in LTCFs. The evidence-based model chosen to guide this research project was the Iowa model. Watson's Theory of Caring was chosen as the theoretical framework. The literature review performed suggested that researchers ignored CNAs' perceptions and personal experiences about working with the older adult population. The project had a qualitative descriptive

design and used a semi-structured interview of a focus group. Data was collected via an audio-recorded Zoom interview with the participants. The project is now in the stage of performing data analysis using NVivo software and Colaizzi`s method. The preliminary results indicate that, at the beginning of their career, CNAs hold myths and stereotypes about the process of aging. A lack of knowledge may lead to inappropriate care. Correcting the CNAs` gap in knowledge will benefit the LTCFs residents. This project will be disseminated in the academic world and LTCFs. Nursing educators and administrators could use this project's results to improve their education plans.