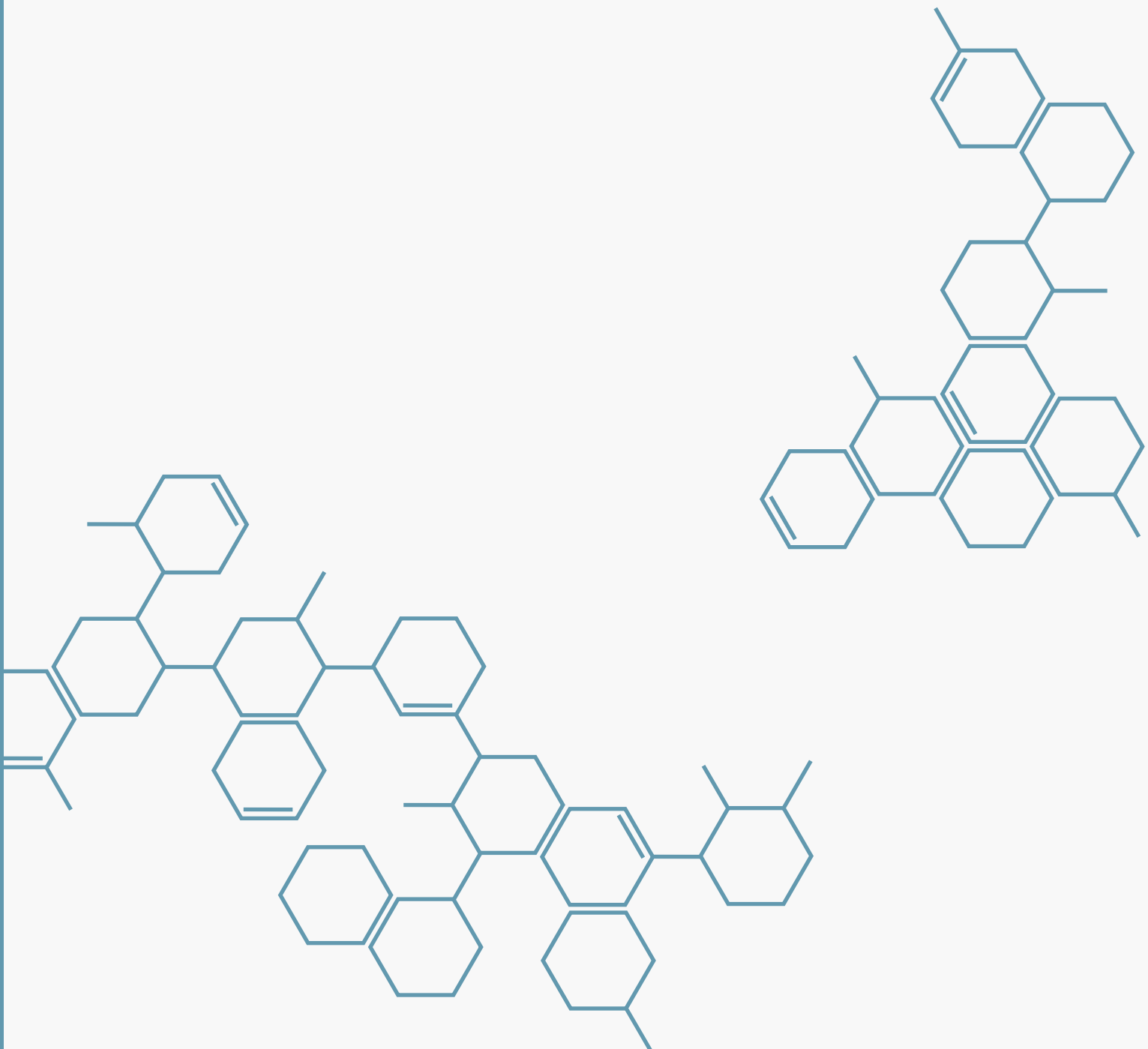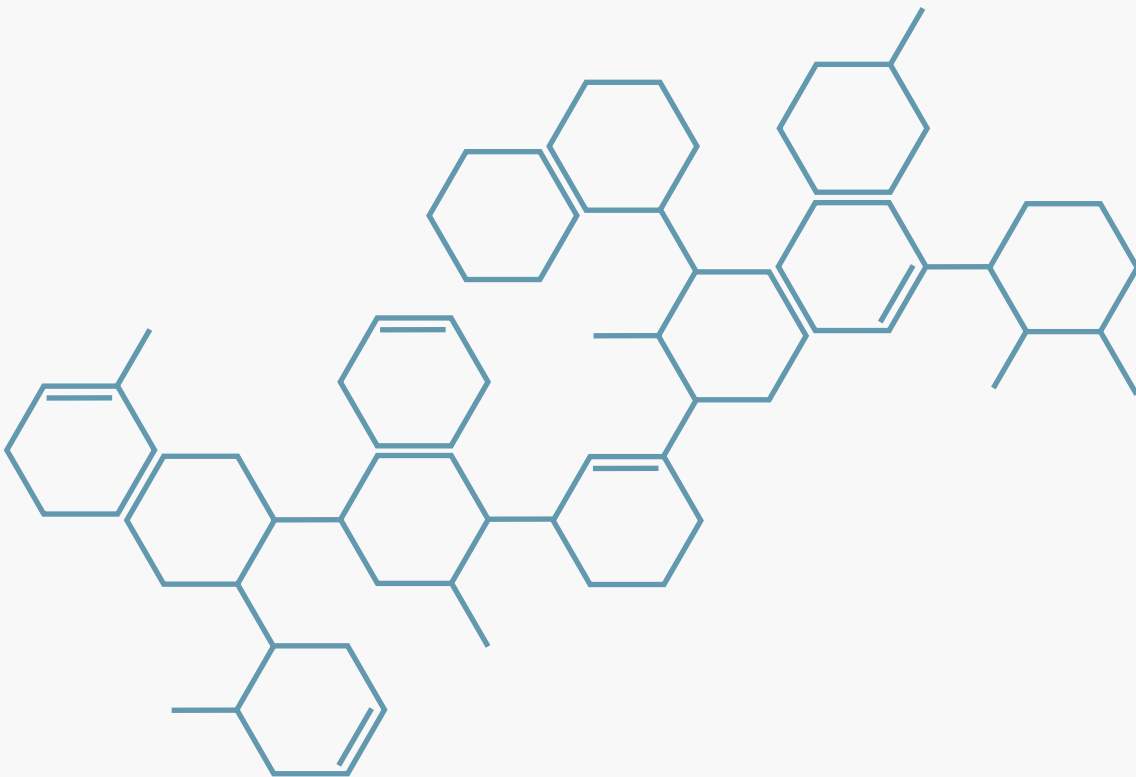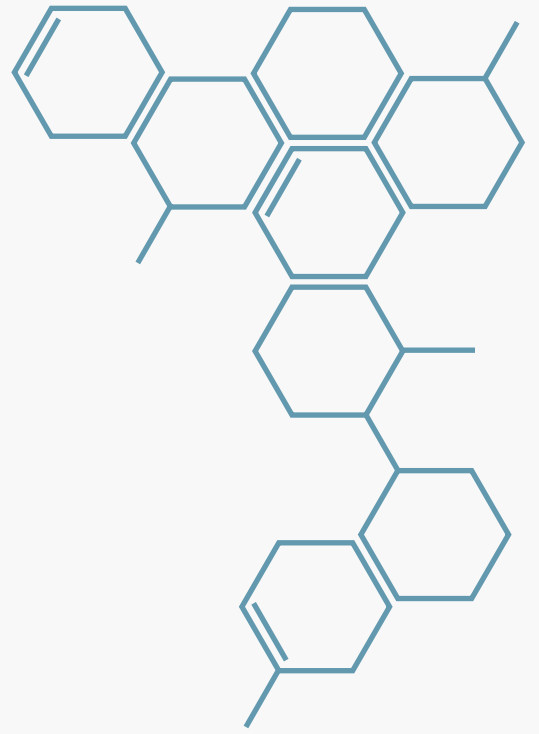# NICHE™

NURSES IMPROVING CARE FOR HEALTHSYSTEM ELDERS

Long-Term Care Program

Program Overview

Nurses Improving Care for Healthysystem Elders (NICHE) is a nursing education and consultation program designed to improve geriatric care in healthcare organizations through education and mentorship. NICHE of NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing provides resources for nursing and interdisciplinary teams, including certified nurse assistants (CNAs), to achieve organizational goals for the care of older adult patients. We also offer American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC) accredited continuing education contact hours for registered nurses and licensed practical/vocational nurses as well as certificates of completion for CNAs.

The NICHE Long-Term Care (NICHE-LTC) program promotes the use of evidence-based clinical interventions and establishes nurses as leaders to bring about changes in the quality of care delivered to older adults in long-term and residential care facilities. Members gain access to evidence-based clinical education resources, nursing practice models, and clinical guidelines designed to improve nurse and CNA knowledge to provide person-centered care.

Developing the nursing workforce in LTC settings is key to achieving improvements in the overall quality of care. Our goal is to provide clinical and organizational change models and quality improvement content that will support LTC teams in improving resident outcomes.

Participation in NICHE-LTC begins with the Leadership Training Program. In this online, blended learning program, nurse managers and clinical leaders learn the principles of our proven practice model and create an organizational action plan to improve quality standards. Following the Leadership Training Program, participants complete a mentored, year-long clinical change quality improvement project.

The hallmarks of NICHE-LTC are the Geriatric Resource Nurse (GRN) and Geriatric Certified Nursing Assistant (GCNA) roles which seek to promote geriatric expertise among front-line staff. The GRNs and GCNAs act as peer mentors, coaches, and quality champions to implement evidence-based clinical practices and guidelines into daily care routines.

Teaching Approach

We recognize that all nursing staff strive to deliver high-quality care and to be leaders within their scope of practice. The program is based on evidence-based practice and proven implementation models:

1

differentiation between RN and LPN roles in clinical practice

2

recognition that there are multiple connections among nursing staff

3

acknowledgment that the quality of these connections is important in the care of LTC residents, care planning, delegating, and supervising

Our curriculum is designed around the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Five-Star Quality Rating System so sites uphold the nationally recognized standards for long-term care. Below are examples of how NICHE education relates to the Five-Star Quality Measures.

CMS Five-Star Quality Measures	NICHE Education Resources
Ability to move independently and participate in activities of daily living	falls, function, pain, person-centered care, reducing preventable hospitalizations, S-B-A-R
High-risk residents with pressure ulcers	age-related change in health, hydration, nutrition, oral care, pressure injuries, skin tears, function, urinary incontinence
Re-hospitalizations, emergency department visits, and discharge to community	decision making, delirium, function, medications, pain
Moderate to severe pain	age-related changes in health, comfort needs, frailty, pain management function, palliative care, person-center care
Falls with major injury	delirium, falls, frailty, function
Antipsychotic Medications	comfort needs, delirium, dementia, medication management, person-centered care (includes management of antipsychotics)

this list is not exhaustive

Educational Resources

NICHE Need to Know supports patient and family consumerism:

nicheprogram.org/resources/need-to-knows.

Webinars are presented by a variety of healthcare professionals highlighting practice innovations at NICHE member organizations. The webinars are offered in live and recorded formats and award one (1) continuing education contact hour.

Program Overview

Long-Term Care Leadership Training Program (LTC-LTP)

9 modules

The LTP is an 8-week blended learning course available for organizational leaders who are beginning NICHE membership or assuming NICHE leadership roles.

Implementation Support

Introduction to Gerontology: 4 modules

Geriatric Resource Nurse (GRN): 15 modules and growing

Geriatric Patient Care Associate (GPCA): 17 modules

Certified Nursing Assistant: 12 modules

Continuing Improvement Courses

Medication Management

Person-Centered Care

Quality Assurance Performance Improvement (QAPI)

Reducing Preventable Hospitalizations

Situation Background Assessment Recommendation (S-B-A-R)

Member Evaluation and Recognition Process

NICHE members submit evaluation data at the end of their first program year and at varying intervals over time. The evaluation data is used to assign a recognition level (member, senior-friendly, exemplar). Members receive feedback from NICHE faculty, a summary report of the NICHE program characteristics for their cohort, and a recognition certificate.

Member sites use NICHE recognition to highlight their commitment to quality care for older adults. To publicize achievement, members receive digital recognition materials, which serve as the official member recognition marketing piece.

Membership Benefits and Fees

Membership includes:
Access to the NICHE Knowledge Center, our online learning management platform. The Knowledge Center houses the Leadership Training Program, continuing education and practice improvement tools, member-only webinars, and continuing education courses.
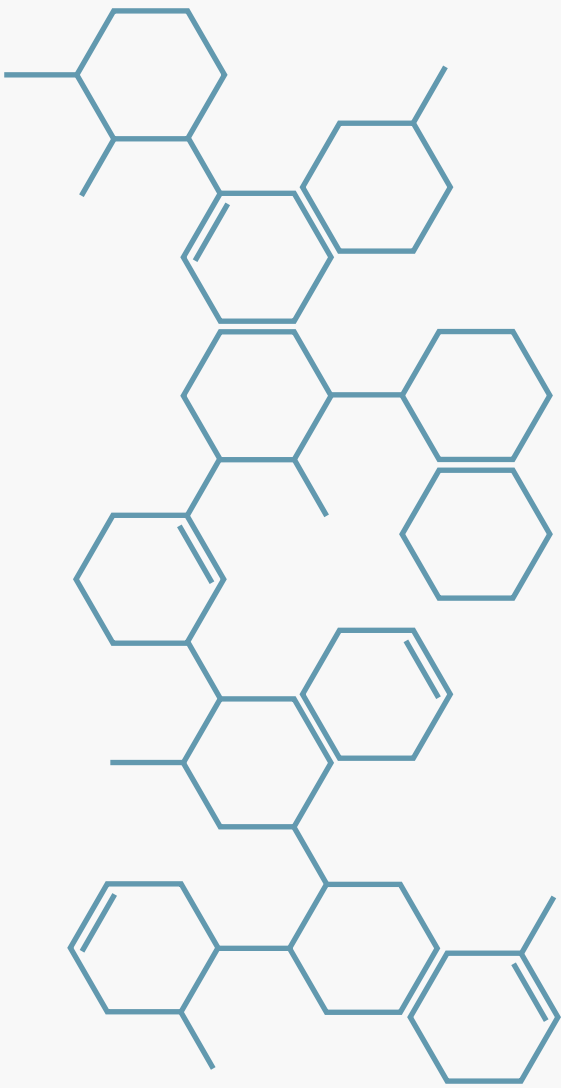
Live and recorded webinars featuring the latest research, best practices, and innovations for improving clinical outcomes.

The ability to collaborate and learn from peers in NICHE member organizations through forums and direct email.

Discounted rates to the NICHE conference.

Fees:
Annual membership: $2,500 per LTC facility