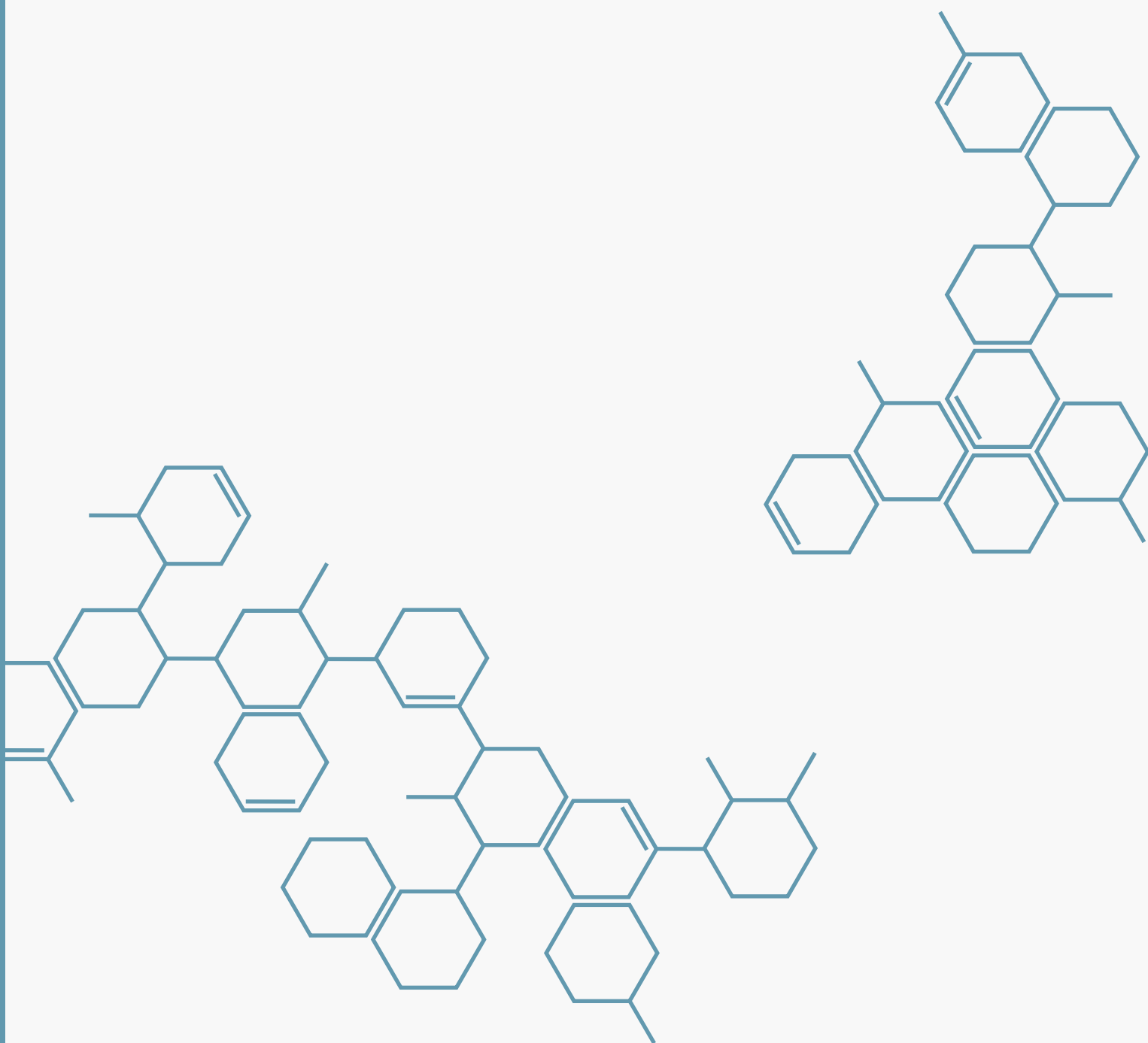


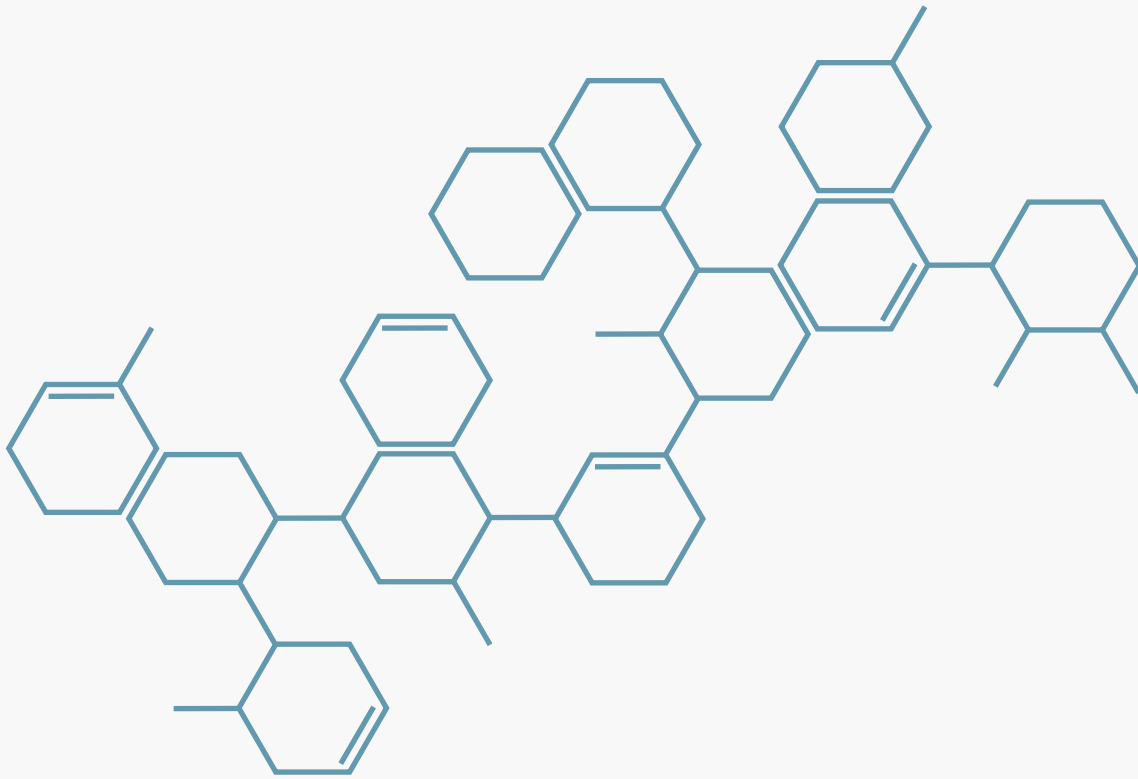
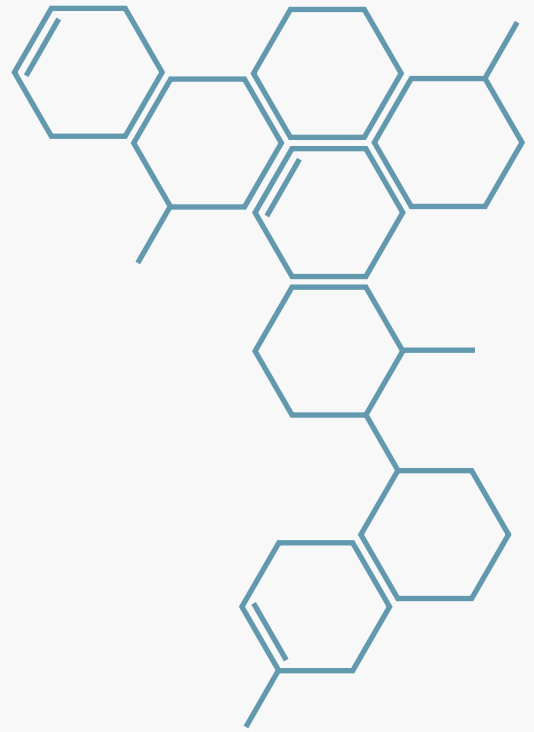
# NICHE™

NURSES IMPROVING CARE FOR HEALTHSYSTEM ELDERS

## Long-Term Care

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## Overview

Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem 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.

Developing the nursing workforce in long-term care (LTC) and post-acute care (PAC) settings is key to achieving improvements in the overall quality of care. Through clinical and organizational change models as well as quality improvement content, nurses are better equipped to improve resident outcomes.

NICHE Long-Term Care (NICHE-LTC) 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 LTC and PAC facilities.

Participation in NICHE-LTC begins with the Leadership Training Program. In this online, blended course, 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 offer American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC) accredited continuing education contact hours for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) as well as certificates of completion for CNAs. 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. We recognize that all nursing staff strive to deliver high-quality care and serve as leaders within their scope of practice. Using evidence-based practice and proven implementation models, NICHE-LTC:



recognizes that there are multiple connections among nursing staff



acknowledges that the quality of these connections is important in the care of LTC residents

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

CMS Five-Star Quality Measures	Education Resources
Ability to move independently and participate in activities of daily living	falls, function, pain, person-centered care, reducing preventable hospitalizations, Situation Background Assessment Recommendations (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, medicines, 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 and reconciliation, person-centered care

*this list is not exhaustive*

## Educational Resources



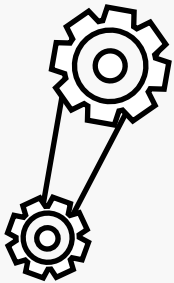
**Webinars** are presented by a variety of healthcare professionals highlighting practice innovations at NICHE member organizations as well as current topics relevant to nursing care for aging adults. The webinars are offered in live and recorded formats and award one (1) continuing education contact hour.



**NICHE Need to Knows** support patient and family consumerism:  
[nicheprogram.org/resources/need-to-knows](http://nicheprogram.org/resources/need-to-knows).



**Long-Term Care Leadership Training Program (LTC-LTP)** is an 8-week blended course available for organizational leaders beginning their membership or assuming NICHE leadership roles. Through this mentored course, teams learn the fundamentals of NICHE and how to implement quality improvement initiatives. Following the LTC-LTP, teams receive ongoing mentorship as they implement their change projects.



### Implementation Courses

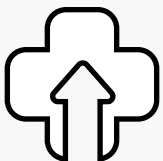
Introduction to Gerontology: 4 modules

Geriatric Resource Nurse (GRN): 20 modules and growing

Geriatric Patient Care Associate (GPCA/GCNA): 17 modules

Nursing Care of the Older Adults with Cancer: 6 modules

Critical Care Nursing of Older Adults: 6 modules



### Clinical and Quality Improvement Modules\*

Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI)

Mediation Management and Reconciliation

Person-Centered Care

Reducing Preventable Hospital Transfers

Effective Communication with the S-B-A-R Tool

Documentation Essentials in LTC

Clinical Improvement Modules: delirium, falls, pressure injuries, restraint reduction

*\*this list is not exhaustive*

## Member Evaluation and Recognition Process

NICHE-LTC members submit evaluation data at the end of their first program year and at varying intervals over time. The evaluation data are 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

Access to the NICHE Knowledge Center, our online learning management platform, which houses our educational resources	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
Monthly newsletters featuring NICHE events and relevant industry news	Stand-alone resources
Continuing education credits and certificates of completion	Evaluation data
Mentored change project	Access to diverse geriatric expertise, including world-class faculty at NYU

## Long-Term Care Readiness Checklist

This list is designed as a guide to help you determine if your LTC organization is ready to implement NICHE-LTC. If you check at least four of the boxes below, then NICHE-LTC could be for you!

- Would your nursing staff, including CNAs, LPNs, and RNs, benefit from educational programs that enhance their knowledge of caring for older adults?
- Do quality measure, quality reporting program, and/or healthcare policy trends indicate a need for changing the way your organization provides care to older adults?
- Would your organization welcome a nurse-led initiative to promote evidence-based care to older adults?
- Does your organization have a vision or goal to provide exemplary care for older adults?
- Is your organization receptive to collaborating with nurses who are experts in the care of older adults and quality improvement?
- Does your organization have current staff who possess the leadership skills to move a NICHE initiative forward?
- Is your organization willing to undergo a period of self-assessment that will lead to specific quality improvement plans related to geriatric care?
- Can you generate support among a critical number (3 - 4) nursing staff for improving geriatric care?
- Are your organization's senior managers and leaders willing to dedicate resources, including time and staff, needed to carry out changes necessary to improve care for older adults?
- Do you have a nurse leader who can help organize and deliver continuing education programs?



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