

**A series
of research
projects about
health and
social care for
older people.**



What is the level of knowledge of the Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment process in nurses working in admission and assessment areas in Edinburgh?

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Overview

This research investigates if nurses working in hospital assessment and admission areas were aware of specific issues and treatments regarding elderly patients, particularly aspects of the Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment. The CGA is a process around the total review of elderly patients looking at specific domains.

Findings

Higher level of the knowledge about the CGA could:

- Reduce length of stay within hospitals but may increase length of stay in acute settings as less patients may require a period of rehabilitation.
- Prompt earlier interventions through initiation of falls, confusion, mobility, nutritional and functional assessments. This could impact on improved diagnosis of significant illnesses such as cancers as well as more simple issues such as urinary infections.
- Increase the appropriate referrals to rehabilitation areas and/or to community based services.

This research suggests further need for:

- Further education about telecare and telehealth in the care of elder patients.
- Dedicated team working across all services to help empower and improve the knowledge, implications and engagement with CGA. This could support the specific needs of the older person and help drive the use of community services through appropriate referrals and assessments.

