

Abstract: Elderspeak is a form of ageism in which individuals speak at a slower rate, in a louder voice, and use overly- endearing terms when communicating with older adults. Most older adults have at least one chronic health condition, and the rate of hospitalization increases with age. Educating health-care professionals, specifically nurses and nursing students, about the importance of competently communicating with older adults is vital in ensuring positive health outcomes for this population.

Estimated Cost:

Electronic Copies Sent \$0.00

Staff Time for Emailing Agencies and Organizations \$0.00

Electronic Publication of Support of Increasing Education About Elderspeak \$0.00

Printing of Support for Education on Elderspeak in Imprint \$200.00

Total Cost: \$200.00

TITLE: INCREASING EDUCATION ABOUT AND THE AWARENESS OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WITH THE GERIATRIC POPULATION

SUBMITTED BY: JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

TOPIC: INCREASING EDUCATION ABOUT AND THE AWARENESS OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WITH THE GERIATRIC POPULATION

**SUBMITTED BY: James Madison University
Harrisonburg, Virginia**

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WHEREAS, 74.1 million Americans will be 65 years or older by 2030. (Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, 2016, p. 82); and

WHEREAS, Americans above the age of 65 account for 34% of healthcare expenses. (Leatherby, 2016, p. 2); and

WHEREAS, Elderspeak is associated with dependency, social isolation, depression, and decreased autonomy in older adults. (Alden & Toth-Cohen, 2015, p. 2-3); and

WHEREAS, In a review of 80 transcripts of nursing home staff communications, "At least one example of elderspeak communication was identified in 84% of transcripts." (Williams et. al., 2017, p. 5); and

WHEREAS, Health-care professionals frequently stereotype older adults leading to inappropriate and demeaning verbal interactions. (Alden & Toth-Cohen, 2015, p. 2); and

WHEREAS, According to the Journal of Gerontological Nursing, "Educating nursing home staff about elderspeak and its implicit messages has been successful in reducing staff use of elderspeak," (Williams et. al., 2017, p. 9-10); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the VNSA encourage the education of student nurses and professional nurses on elderspeak and its impacts on the older population; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the VNSA publish an article in Imprint regarding the aging population and its effect on healthcare; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the VNSA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, American Association of Colleges of Nurses, National League for Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, American Academy of Nursing, American Geriatrics Society,

Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association, and all others deemed appropriate by the VNSA Board of Directors.

References:

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