



## SENSORY CHANGES IN THE NURSING HOME RESIDENT

### Learning Objectives:

Using knowledge about normal age related sensory changes, students will be able to:

1. Assess a component of the nursing home environment
2. Identify challenge(s) for residents with normal age-related vision and hearing changes.
3. Recommend environmental changes and accommodations for sensory loss; and discuss strategies to assist nursing home residents in adapting to these changes.

### Student Preparation:

1. Review normal age related sensory changes, specifically vision and hearing.
  - a. Read chapters in course textbook related to age related sensory changes.
  - b. Read journal article: Wallhagen, M., Pettingill, E., and Whiteside, M. (2006). Sensory impairment in older adults: Part 1: Hearing Loss. *AJN*, 106 (10), 40-48.
  - c. Read journal article: Whiteside, M., Wallhagen, M., Pettengill, E. (2006). Sensory impairment in older adults: Part 2: Vision loss. *AJN*, 106 (11), 52-61.
2. Review assessment and nursing intervention strategies for sensory loss (vision and hearing sensory components).
  - a. Go to the following website: <http://consultgerirn.org/>. Go to “Evidence-based geriatric topics” and select Sensory Changes from the drop down menu. Review the Nursing Assessment and Care Strategies.
3. Review assessment tool for hearing loss.
  - a. Go to the following website: <http://consultgerirn.org/resources>. Expand the “General Assessments Series” and select Series 12 Hearing Screening in Older Adults: A Brief Hearing Loss Screener.

### Student Activities:

1. During the clinical day, students will work in groups of two and assess a component of the nursing home environment (i.e. resident room, shower or bathroom, hallway, dining room, chapel, living room, nursing station, physical therapy gym) to identify the challenge(s) an older adult with normal age-related vision and hearing changes might encounter.
2. In post clinical conference, discuss the environmental challenge(s) noted during assessment and highlight recommendations for change(s) to the environment which would accommodate for the needs of older adults with vision and hearing changes.
3. Discuss nursing intervention strategies which can assist older adults to adapt to normal vision and hearing changes.



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For additional *Quick and Easy* tips, visit:

<http://www.nursing.umn.edu/Hartford/ClinicalTeachinginNursingHomes/ClinicalTeachingResources/index.htm>