

A Study of the Effect on Residents of Getting out of Bed in a Nursing Home

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The purpose of this paper was to study the relationship between getting out of bed and a residents' quality of life in a nursing home and to discuss its significance.

First the residents were categorized into a bedridden group and those who were able to get out of bed. The groups were compared from three points of view : disposition of patient, general health, and social and cultural aspects.

It was assumed that independent degree of mobility and ability to maintain body position were the critical factors in whether a patient was bedridden or ambulatory.

Getting out of bed was related to preventing constipation and promoting a more cheerful outlook. Therefore, getting out of bed was important from the social and cultural aspects. On the other hand, being bedridden was very detrimental to promoting social and cultural contacts.

Changes in Social Welfare Philosophy and the Insurance System for the Care of the Elderly

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The Elderly Care Insurance Law is regarded as a benchmark in the structural reform of social security. The goal of the reform is to reduce public expenditure on health and welfare by transferring the financial responsibility to the individual. This current goal is questionable because of the "welfare state" philosophy, which means that government is responsible for providing adequate welfare protection for all members of the society. The Elderly Care Insurance Law is antithetical to this concept.

The elderly care insurance system is strongly supported on the grounds that the new system assures the rights of welfare recipients because they will have paid an insurance premium. However, this argument is false because the right to welfare assistance will be limited to those who have paid or are able to pay the insurance premium. The new concept is obviously contradictory to the philosophy of "social welfare" according to which the state should provide welfare assistance to all its members, regardless of their ability to pay.

The main reason for choosing a system of social insurance for public care of the elderly is to reduce public expenditures with a goal of the structural reform of social security. The structural reform seems primarily intended to reduce public expenditures through the insurance premium charged to individuals.

Behavior Modification Techniques for Mutism in a Residential Setting for Mentally Disabled People

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The staff at residential settings for mentally disabled people are not familiar with the approach of behavior modification. We should not think that behavior modification is a particular technique, even though it is described in technical terms as reward and punishment in reports, and that strict controls should be exercised in its application.

This case study about behavior modification for mutism emphasizes that its use in a residential setting for mentally disabled people amounts to daily communication combined with positive reinforcement. In such settings, the use of positive reinforcement is very effective while negative reinforcement has a harmful effect.