

# HALTON HEALTHCARE CHATS ABOUT GPA EDUCATION IN ACUTE CARE

CONGRATULATIONS ...



2016 | 2017 AWARD

RECIPIENT

GPA LEADERSHIP

EXCELLENCE IN PERSON-  
CENTRED CARE

Located in Southern Ontario, Halton Healthcare includes Georgetown Hospital, Milton District Hospital and Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital.

Learn more about Halton Healthcare here.

Learn more about Advanced Gerontological Education (AGE) Inc., the developer of Gentle Persuasive Approaches in Dementia Care.



[www.ageinc.ca](http://www.ageinc.ca)



In 2014, Halton Healthcare had just two GPA Certified Coaches at their Georgetown Hospital. Today, they have ten coaches delivering monthly GPA sessions across all three hospital sites. Coaches represent a cross section of disciplines, including Point-of-Care Nurses, Clinical Resource Nurses, Patient Care Managers, Professional Practice Clinicians, Elder Life Specialists, GEM Nurses and Falls Prevention Coordinators.

## SINCE MID-2016, 300 STAFF HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN GPA

Halton Healthcare's increased focus on GPA training was a direct result of their 2016 participation in the Acute Care of the Elderly (ACE) Collaborative. "We began with one medicine unit at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH) on Unit 5 South. Our goal was to develop a standardized approach to managing

## SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN THE USE OF RESTRAINTS, CODE WHITES AND FALLS

responsive behaviours for elderly patients with dementia, delirium and cognitive and behavioural impairment," says Martha Budgell, Safer Elder Care Professional Practice Clinician at OTMH. "We used some of our CHFI funding for GPA training. Initially, we

focused on GPA training for nursing and clinical staff, but we recognized the value of expanding the training to include unit clerks, staff from dietary, allied health, diagnostic imaging, housekeeping and volunteers."

Angela Roode, Patient Care Manager at OTMH, tells us that "prior to GPA, nurses on the ward would avoid or disengage when a patient was experiencing responsive behaviour, so sometimes we were using PSWs for 1:1 observation of patients, as well as pharmacological interventions and restraints. There was no formal care plan in place and success was through trial and error."

The team on Unit 5 South now has direction, focus and the tools to help with planning patient care. "We are deliberate and focused on the right priorities and have seen significant reductions in falls, use of restraints and Code Whites," Angela says.

In a survey after the ACE Collaborative and following GPA training, staff were asked which behaviours were the most challenging when providing care. The results showed a decrease in 12 of 13 responsive behaviours originally listed as the most challenging.

## A PLAN FOR SUSTAINING GPA

A few final words from Martha: "We recognize that staff will need to be supported to refresh their GPA training. The next step in planning for program sustainability is to provide them with an annual 2-hour GPA Recharged session."