

Open School

Video Activity: Caring for the Elderly

(<http://www.ihl.org/education/IHIOpenSchool/resources/Pages/Activities/CaringfortheElderly.aspx>)

Connie Davis, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Fraser Health, British Columbia, Canada

Facilitator Instructions

- Review the learning objectives and description with your group.
- Watch the [video](#) together (3 min 17 sec).
- As a group, discuss your reactions to the video, using the discussion questions as a guide.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this activity, you will be able to:

- List at least two traits or behaviors that can be helpful when caring for elderly patients.
- Discuss how patient-centered care for an elderly patient can be different from patient-centered care for a younger patient.

Description

Clinical Nurse Specialist Connie Davis says her career caring for the elderly has been “an amazing gift.” Learn how practicing patient-centered care with seniors can enrich both your life and their health outcomes.

Related IHI Open School Online Courses

- [PFC 103: Having the Conversation: Basic Skills for Conversations about End-of-Life Care](#)
- [PFC 101: Dignity and Respect](#)

Key Topics

Geriatrics, person- and family-centered care, palliative care, engage patients and families in care.

Facilitator, show [the video on this page](#). For your group's discussion after the video, feel free to adjust these questions and/or add your own.

Discussion Questions

1. If you plan to practice medicine, would you consider pursuing geriatrics as a specialty? Why or why not? In what ways would it be especially challenging? In what ways would it be especially rewarding?
2. Connie Davis lists several traits and skills required to care for the elderly. What else would you put on this list?
3. How would you want your grandmother, grandfather, or any elderly person whom you're close with to be treated by the health care system? (E.g., Would you want them to feel in control of their care? How could the health system help them with that?)
4. Have you seen or heard about any positive or negative experiences related to elderly care that you'd be willing to share?
5. Read this May 2008 *New York Times* article: ["For the Elderly, Being Heard About Life's End."](#) For students who plan to be clinicians: How might you feel if an elderly patient were reluctant to pursue an aggressive therapy that you felt would be effective? What questions might you ask the patient? And what might be your emotions upon recommending a gentler but less effective treatment option?