How core nursing textbooks inform holistic spiritual care

National and international health and nursing guidelines recommend that staff attend to patients’ spiritual and religious needs, which suggests that spiritual care is an important aspect of holistic care. However, many nurses lack knowledge of the subject, and it is unclear whether core textbooks provide the information they need.

This article in Nursing Management reports on a study of the extent to which contemporary core nursing textbooks support and advocate the provision of spiritual care by nurses. Findings suggest that few refer specifically to the need for spiritual assessment tools or referral to chaplains.

As more attention is given to patients’ spiritual needs, the guidance given by nursing textbooks should be more substantive and consistent. Clarity about spiritual care and guidance on best practice are therefore needed.


Enabling supported self-management of wound care in a community setting

Wound care represents about 40% of the community nursing caseload. This article in Primary Health Care describes how one NHS trust’s adult community nursing teams supported self-management for wound care.

The NHS text-messaging technology known as Flo was used to extend self-management guidance to patients between face-to-face contacts. Patient experiences were positive and the number of nursing contacts was reduced, allowing the team to focus on patients with more complex needs.

Staff appreciated the support offered by the revised care pathway in improving care.


Medication use in residential care for older people with intellectual disabilities

Medication administration may appear to be a ‘simple’ nursing task, but this audit published in Learning Disability Practice found that, due to a combination of multiple medication use and medical complexity in older people with learning disabilities, it can be more complicated than staff realise.

Medication use is a major therapeutic intervention for older people with learning disabilities, who have unique medication needs and vulnerabilities. It is therefore important that all nursing, medical and pharmacy personnel, service provider management and policy makers are aware of its complexity.


‘Optimal blood-pressure control in patients with hypertension is vital to reduce risk of complications, and medication adherence is an important yet often ignored factor influencing blood-pressure control. This article in Primary Health Care explores influencing factors and successful interventions that improve adherence’


‘The prison service badly needs a properly resourced national strategy for its rapidly growing population of older prisoners, to guide its staff in their management of age-related conditions, such as dementia’

Read more rcni.com/nursing-older-people/opinion/comment/prisons-must-develop-dementia-strategy-says-ombudsman-62241