



Elder Abuse Bytes

APRIL, 2012

The newsletter of the National Center on Elder Abuse



WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY VIDEO CAMPAIGN

Join the National Center on Elder Abuse in creating a public awareness video highlighting the issue of elder abuse in America. Use your iPhone, iPad, camera, etc. to film yourself or others saying a brief message about why you care about elder abuse, then e-mail it to our YouTube page. We'll create a video collage in time for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15.

Visit our website to learn more:

http://www.centeronelderabuse.org/elder_abuse_video_campaign.asp

Deadline for submissions is Friday, April 27, 2012.

DETECTING PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse as a contributing factor in the death of an elderly individual is difficult to exclude without a full conventional autopsy, even when allegations of abuse are focused on nonphysical issues. In this report, the authors investigate the potential for use of whole-body post mortem computed tomography (PMCT) as a triage tool to determine the need for conventional autopsy, based on detection of injuries suggestive of physical abuse and/or evidence suggestive of neglect.

This report is the result of an NIJ-funded project but was not published by the U.S. Department of Justice. (pdf, 86 pages)

[Utility of Whole-Body Computed Tomography Imaging in Post Mortem Detection of Elder Abuse and Neglect: Comparison with and Potential Substitution for Standard Autopsy](#)

FINANCE: Top 10 Scams of the Year:

The Better Business Bureau has released an infographic, charting the biggest consumer scams of 2011. The number one scam of the year is attributed to someone pretending to be the Better Business Bureau itself! Scammers can reach far and wide with their invitations, but to fall victim to a scam, you generally need to actively follow instructions to give away your personal data.

http://mashable.com/2012/03/10/top-scams/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Mashable+%28Mashable%29

RESEARCH: Elder financial exploitation

The Financial Fraud Research Center serves as a repository of research about fraud. The center was formed after experts at a conference hosted by the Stanford Center on Longevity and AARP agreed on the need for such a repository in the fight against fraud in America. The center consolidates information, connects research to practice, and catalyzes research and funding for relevant research projects. Fraud claims billions of lost dollars every year. At the center's website, visitors can learn all about current fraud research sign up for research updates via email.

<http://fraudresearchcenter.org/research/>

RESEARCH: One in four adults with mental illness have been victim of violence in the past year

Researchers at John Moores University in Liverpool, UK, recently conducted a meta-analysis of research on violence against disabled adults within the last year. They analyzed 26 studies including over 21,500 individuals with disabilities from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Taiwan, UK, USA, and South Africa. They estimated that disabled adults are 1.5 times more likely to be a victim of violence than those without a disability, while those with a mental illness are at nearly four times the risk of experiencing violence. About 15% of adults worldwide have a disability and this is predicted to rise because of the impact of an aging population and a global increase in chronic diseases. Read more about the study here:

<http://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-02-adults-mental-illness-victim-violence.html>

MEDICINE: American Geriatrics Society Releases Updated Beers Criteria List of Potentially Inappropriate Medication for Older Adults

The American Geriatrics Society (AGS) and an interdisciplinary panel of 11 experts in geriatric care and pharmacotherapy released an updated version of the previous Beers Criteria list of Potentially Inappropriate Medication for Older Adults, using a comprehensive, systematic review and grading of the evidence on drug-related problems and adverse drug events in older adults. Fifty-three medications or medication classes encompass the final update criteria. Read the full report here:

http://www.americangeriatrics.org/files/documents/beers/2012BeersCriteria_JAGS.pdf

IN THE NEWS: Bank Employees Thwart Scam Targeting Elderly

Customer. Two bank employees in Illinois were recently awarded Honorary Civic Commendations from the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) Implementation Office for their role in helping to thwart a financial scam involving an elderly customer. They were alerted to the situation by the suspicious activity that occurred on the customer's account, a request for a \$5,000 cashier's check, intended for a fraudulent lottery scam organization that had contacted the customer via mail. Full story available here:

<http://www.centersquarejournal.com/news/bank-employees-thwart-scam-targeting-elderly>

CALLING ALL ELDER ABUSE COALITIONS:

The National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse is collecting information about existing elder abuse coalitions. The goal is to create a database of all local elder abuse work going on in the U.S. in order to connect groups, identify local leaders, and help groups learn from one another. Please send information to Beth Rosenthal, Executive Director, National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse at brosenthal@preventelderabuse.org by *April 15th, 2012 to be included in the first round.*

LONG-TERM CARE: Launch of the Initiative Reduce the Use of Antipsychotic Medications in Nursing Home Residents.

CMS has launched a new initiative aimed at improving behavioral health and safeguarding nursing home residents from unnecessary antipsychotic drug use. As part of the initiative, CMS is developing a national action plan that will use a multidimensional approach including public reporting, raising public awareness, regulatory oversight, technical assistance/training and research. The action plan will be targeted at enhancing person-centered care for nursing home residents, particularly those with dementia-related behaviors. The Target Audience for this initiative include State Survey Agencies, residents and family members, nursing home staff, clinicians, providers, advocates, CMS Regional Offices, and others. Video Streaming Information: This program will be available for viewing up to one year following March 29, 2012, at <http://surveyortraining.cms.hhs.gov>.

NEW IN THE JOURNAL OF ELDER ABUSE AND NEGLECT: Should Animal Abuse and Neglect be Assessed?

Authors: Terry Peak MSW PhD, Frank Ascione PhD & Jylisa Doney

Past research has examined links among animal abuse, child maltreatment, and intimate partner violence and demonstrated the importance of addressing the needs of both human and animal victims. The authors hypothesized that there might be a similar link between animal abuse and older adult welfare issues. The authors describe a model assessment protocol developed in collaboration with the Utah Division of Aging and Adult Services.

Read more here:

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/WEAN>

NEW EDITORS: The *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, the official journal of the **National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA)**, welcomes Karen Stein, Ph.D., as its new Editor-in-Chief in 2012. Dr. Stein is Associate Professor of Leadership at the School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Delaware. Dr. Stein will be supported by incoming Associate Editor, Sharon Merriman-Nai, M.C., Project Director of CANE and former co-manager of the National Center on Elder Abuse.

RESOURCE: The National Center for State Courts

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) is an independent, nonprofit court improvement organization. All of NCSC's services — research, information services, education, consulting — are focused on helping courts plan, make decisions, and implement improvements that save time and money, while ensuring judicial administration that supports fair and impartial decision-making. To take advantage of tailored benefits, judges and court administrators can register for educational courses or contract with NCSC researchers and consultants for evaluation, assessment, and implementation of court improvement tools and methods. Learn more here:

<http://www.eldersandcourts.org/>

AUTHORS: Home Health Care Services Quarterly

Home Health Care Services Quarterly accepts manuscript submissions to be featured in their publication electronically via the ScholarOne Manuscripts website. Home Health Care Services Quarterly publishes important research on the cutting edge of home care and alternatives to long-term institutional care for the elderly, disabled, and other community services. The journal is aimed toward service providers and health care specialists involved with health care financing, evaluation of services, organization of services, and public policy issues. Complete instructions for authors can be found here: <http://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=whhc20&page=instructions>



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National Center on Elder Abuse
Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse and Neglect
University of California, Irvine
101 The City Drive South, Bldg. 200, Suite 835
Orange, CA 92868
(714) 456-5530

<http://www.ncea.aoa.gov>
<http://www.centeronelderabuse.org>
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