

Elder Abuse Bytes E-Newsletter

October 2011

Promoting aging with dignity and eliminating aging in fear



MEDICINE: "I Don't Care Anything About Going to the Doctor, to Be Honest . . ."

Mosqueda, Laura and Dong, Xinqi. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Vol.306 No. 5 (2011): 532-540. <http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/306/5/532.short>

This article provides an overview of the problem of elder abuse and the research that has been conducted on the matter. It also covers efforts taken by public health departments and interdisciplinary teams to combat elder abuse and provide resources to surviving victims and their families.



POLICY: "Enhancing National Policy and Programs to Address Elder Abuse"

Dong, Xinqi, and Melissa A. Simon. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Vol.305 No. 23 (2011): 2460-246. <http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/305/23/2460.full.pdf>

This article recognizes elder abuse as a pervasive public health and human rights issue and cites major gaps in funding, policy, research, education, and training as the causes for the continued prevalence of this issue. The authors recognize the full appropriation of the Elder Justice Act of 2010 to adequately study and combat elder abuse.



LONG-TERM CARE: GAO Study Shows Deficiencies in Private vs. Public Nursing Homes <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11571.pdf>

A recent study by the Government Accountability Office recorded changes in public nursing homes that were acquired by private organizations. The researchers found that on average, privately owned and for-profit nursing homes had more total deficiencies than nonprofit homes both before and after the time of the acquisition. They also found that the total nurse staffing ratios were lower in privately-owned homes.

RESOURCES: Federal Nursing Home Comparison Website

<http://www.medicare.gov/nhcompare/>

The redesign of the federal Nursing Home Compare website, which lets consumers file complaints more easily and compare facilities based on quality measure, is complete. After its most recent renovation, the site now gives consumers more tools to directly file complaints with state survey agencies, providing links to phone and fax numbers and standardized complaint forms. These complaints will be available to be viewed by the public.

CAREGIVING: The Growing Contributions and Costs of Family Caregiving

<http://www.aarp.org/relationships/caregiving/info-07-2011/valuing-the-invaluable.html>

For the full study: <http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/ppi/ltc/i51-caregiving.pdf>

AARP has published an updated estimate of national and individual state values of family caregiving. The estimated economic value of family members' unpaid contributions to their loved ones' caregiving was estimated at \$450 billion in 2009, up from an estimated \$375 billion in 2007. The report also explains the kinds of contributions most frequently made by family caregivers and details the costs and consequences of providing family care. The article concludes by providing recommendations for policies that better support caregivers.

FINANCIAL ABUSE: Crimes of Occasion, Desperation, and Predation Against America's Elders

<http://www.metlife.com/assets/cao/mmi/publications/studies/2011/mmi-elder-financial-abuse.pdf>

MetLife has published a study detailing the prevalence and impact of elder financial abuse in America today. It emphasizes that these crimes continue to decimate incomes, impact the health and well-being of its victims, and fracture families, yet elder financial abuse continues to go underreported, under-recognized, and under-prosecuted.

HEALTHCARE: CMS Announces Medicare Fraud and Abuse Initiative

http://www.oandp.com/articles/NEWS_2011-06-23_01.asp

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has announced a new initiative that uses a predictive modeling technology used by credit card companies that can identify potentially fraudulent claims before they are paid. According to Peter Budetti, director of CMS' Center for Program Integrity, "Predictive modeling is a revolutionary new way to detect fraud and abuse, integrating effective and timely actions with protections and savings for Medicare and taxpayers."

FUNDING: The Center of Excellence Receives Grant to Become the National Center on Elder Abuse

http://today.uci.edu/news/2011/09/nr_ncea_110901.php

The Administration on Aging has awarded UCI's Center of Excellence a grant of \$561,000/year for three years to be the National Center on Elder Abuse. The NCEA will provide a national source of practical information to support federal, state and local efforts to prevent, identify, and effectively respond to elder abuse. The Center will provide information and technical support, translate the latest research in the field, and disseminate best practices for state, local, and Tribal practitioners. The NCEA

will also provide technical assistance on developing effective prevention, intervention, and response efforts to address elder abuse.



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