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Abstract.

Depression Rates of elderly residents at skilled nursing facilities throughout the United States range from 26-52%. Proper assessment of residents is crucial to identifying depression symptoms for early diagnosis and treatment. With the use of the Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2) depression screening tool, quick and valid assessment can be provided to properly screen these elderly patients and initiate proper treatment of depressive symptoms by the appropriate psychiatric consultant. Despite the high prevalence of depression in nursing homes, nursing staff need further education to best conduct a depression assessment. This manuscript describes an evidenced-based project to educate registered nursing staff on depressive symptoms amongst the elderly and screen for depressive symptoms amongst elderly residents at a skilled nursing facility using the Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ-2).

Keywords: Depression, Elderly, Skilled Nursing Facility, Rehabilitation Center, Nursing Education, PHQ-2, Depression Screening