

Unit #18 Elderly Care

Below is a list of the vocabulary needed to pass this unit with a good score.

ailment

a minor illness

"He complains of many unusual sounding ailments, but we can find no evidence of any problem."

bathe

to clean, wash

"All patients need to be bathed once per day."

bedsores

a sore or rash developed by the pressure of lying in the same place for an extended period

"Bedsores are a real problem for coma patients."

cognitive

relating to cognition or the brain

"Diet has been proven to have an effect on our cognitive processes."

companionship

a feeling of company, friendship

"One of the advantages of retirement homes is that the residents have a lot of companionship."

dementia

a decline in mental ability severe enough to impact on daily life

"A lot of elderly people suffer from dementia and as a result have problems with their memory."

functional disability

a long term limitation resulting from an injury, condition or illness

"Although he is in good physical condition, he suffers from a mental condition which has led to his functional disability and is unable to care for himself."

glaucoma

a condition of increased pressure within the eyeball resulting in loss of sight

"Glaucoma is most often treated with eye-drops, but if untreated it can result in blindness."

grooming

activities such as brushing ones hair, doing ones make-up and generally taking care of ones appearance

"It is a mistake to think that only female patients need help with their grooming."

hospice

a home providing care for sick, elderly or terminally ill patients

"Many terminally ill patients are given a new lease on life in hospice care."

impairment

the state of being weakened, damaged or diminished

"He spent three months recuperating after the eye surgery, but still has a slight impairment in his sight."

incontinent

unable to control natural discharges of urine / feces

"One of the most embarrassing things for elderly patients is becoming incontinent."

infirm

frail, weak - often connected to age

"She is very infirm and should not go out alone."

interaction

the process of reacting to and responding to a stimuli

"All humans need interaction as we are social creatures."

osteoporosis

a bone weakening disease

"Many senior citizens need hip replacements are a result of osteoporosis."

outcome

a result, effect

"The family waited nervously before the doctor gave them the outcome of the tests."

pre-existing

something which already was already before

"Most insurance policies do not allow for treatment of pre-existing conditions."

regimen

a prescribed course of medical treatment

"It is important to finish the regimen of antibiotics."

residential care

long-term care given to patients in a 'home' setting

"A lot of elderly people who cannot live comfortably on their own make use of residential care, where a nurse comes to their house."

respite care

short-term care given to patients who cannot be cared for by family

"As her family live in Australia, Susan spent two weeks in respite care after her operation."