

Review of: "Challenge in Old People Care in Nursing Homes during COVID-19 Pandemia: Role of Nurses"

Michael Rosentreter

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

It is a nice article which can published in the present variant The recipient will probably take note of the amount with the comment "Yes, generally quite order", But he will miss several concretizations. However, the topic is far too important for that, especially since further pandemics are to be expected in the future and it seems that consequences have not been adequately taken in the national health systems. Therefore, it would be helpful if the authors indicate the (regional/national) context they refer to.

In the title, the authors address the role of nurses, but then make six recommendations to care facilities. Let's discuss different perspectives:

The perspective of the health professions

1. In national health systems, hierarchies and cooperation between the health professions are very different. Nevertheless, it would make sense if the genuine tasks and challenges for the respective health professions were named, as this results in concrete qualification needs.
2. This would be particularly useful regarding the professional self-image and ethos of health professions, because it varies ideas of good health care. Doctors and nurses, for example, have, especially regarding the care of the elderly in long-term care, different ideas about therapy goals, quality of life and care concepts.
3. Against this background, the question of compulsory vaccination for medical and nursing staff should at least be addressed.

The perspective of elderly/dementia residents

1. In the article, the psychosocial care of very elderly/dementia people is thought of primarily from the perspective of medical care (infection control, hospital treatment ...). Here, the authors should position themselves as to which treatment goals should be aimed for, especially concerning very elderly/dementia people.
2. This is mentioned in the article but should at least be critically questioned. What do autonomy and quality of life mean in the last phase of life and under the special conditions of living in a foreign environment among strangers?
3. Furthermore, the ethical discourse leads to the balancing of autonomy/self-determination and care (cf. Beauchamp and Childress, Principles of Biomedical Ethics).

The perspective of systems and organisations

The ability of a health system to cope with crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic depends on many factors, such as staffing, qualification and cooperation of health professionals and much more. Without these requirements being taken into account, the recommendations are in danger of being left in a vacuum.

Recommendations for action are to be formulated against the background of the framework conditions and the defined goals. If the team of authors strives for a higher degree of concretization, these prerequisites should at least be addressed and evaluated. If the authors also focus on the role of nurses, the prerequisites (ethos, care goals, etc.) would also have to be named in order to derive concrete tasks and necessary qualifications.