

***Impact of COVID-19
on Inclusion in
Research: Long Term
Care Experience***

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Disclosures

- Board of Directors, Wish of a Lifetime-from AARP
- Board of Directors, California Association of Long Term Care Medicine (CALTCM)
- Board of Directors, Health in Aging Foundation
- Board of Directors, Sanolla
- Editorial Board, The Merck Manual

I also have a strong bias against ageism, which I will never remain quiet about!

March 10th NBC NEWS



Coronavirus is nursing homes' 'greatest threat' in years. Here's what they must do.

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CORONAVIRUS

Coronavirus is nursing homes' 'greatest threat' in years. Here's what they must do.

"This is the greatest threat to nursing home residents that we have seen in many years, if not ever," one expert said.



COVID-19 Long Term Care “Research”

- Primarily Descriptive in nature (MMWR'S)
- Focus on staffing ratios
- Focus on staff transmission
- Delphi process

MMWR

- Kirkland Washington nursing home outbreak*
- Asymptomatic spread**
- Vaccine deployment***

*McMichael TM, Clark S, Pogosjans S, et al. COVID-19 in a Long-Term Care Facility — King County, Washington, February 27–March 9, 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2020;69:339-342

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6912e1external icon>.

** Kimball A, Hatfield KM, Arons M, et al. Asymptomatic and Presymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infections in Residents of a Long-Term Care Skilled Nursing Facility — King County, Washington, March 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2020;69:377–381.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6913e1>

***Gharpure R, Guo A, Bishnoi CK, et al. Early COVID-19 First-Dose Vaccination Coverage Among Residents and Staff Members of Skilled Nursing Facilities Participating in the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program — United States, December 2020–January 2021. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2021;70:178–182.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7005e2external icon>.

Maryland Nursing Home Study*

- 56% Positive Tests were asymptomatic
 - 45% w/ multiple sx's hospitalized
 - 39% w/ multiple sx's died
 - 14% asymptomatic died versus 7% negative
-
- *Tang O, Bigelow BF, Sheikh F, et al. Outcomes of Nursing Home COVID-19 Patients by Initial Symptoms and Comorbidity: Results of Universal Testing of 1970 Residents. *J Am Med Dir Assoc.* 2020;21(12):1767-1773.e1. doi:10.1016/j.jamda.2020.10.011

Evaluating Respiratory Infections: A New Normal*

- COVID-19 testing
- Influenza testing
- Chest x-ray
- Decision support tools

*Kistler CE, Jump RLP, Sloane PD, Zimmerman S. The Winter Respiratory Viral Season During the COVID-19 Pandemic. J Am Med Dir Assoc. 2020 Dec;21(12):1741-1745. doi: 10.1016/j.jamda.2020.10.030. Epub 2020 Oct 26. PMID: 33256954; PMCID: PMC7586921.

Long Term Impact of COVID-19

- Nursing Homes*
 - Readmission risk highest for patients discharged to SNF
 - COPD, CHF, CKD, DM

*Lavery AM, Preston LE, Ko JY, et al. Characteristics of Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients Discharged and Experiencing Same-Hospital Readmission - United States, March-August 2020. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2020;69(45):1695-1699. Published 2020 Nov 13. doi:10.15585/mmwr.mm6945e2

Delphi Recommendations in Long Term Care

- Testing*
- Visitation**

* Wasserman M, Ouslander JG, Lam A, et al. Editorial: Diagnostic Testing for SARS-Coronavirus-2 in the Nursing Facility: Recommendations of a Delphi Panel of Long-Term Care Clinicians. *J Nutr Health Aging*. 2020;24(6):538-443. doi:10.1007/s12603-020-1401-9

** Bergman C, Stall NM, Haimowitz D, Aronson L, Lynn J, Steinberg K, Wasserman M. Recommendations for Welcoming Back Nursing Home Visitors During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Results of a Delphi Panel. *J Am Med Dir Assoc*. 2020 Dec;21(12):1759-1766. doi: 10.1016/j.jamda.2020.09.036. Epub 2020 Oct 7. PMID: 33256956; PMCID: PMC7539058.

Table 1. Characteristics of the Participants at Baseline.*

Characteristic	Age of 56–70 Years		Age of ≥71 Years		All Participants (N=40)
	25-μg Dose (N=10)	100-μg Dose (N=10)	25-μg Dose (N=10)	100-μg Dose (N=10)	
Sex — no. (%)					
Male	3 (30)	5 (50)	8 (80)	3 (30)	19 (48)
Female	7 (70)	5 (50)	2 (20)	7 (70)	21 (52)
Age — yr	65.8±4.5	63.8±4.3	72.8±1.2	72.6±1.1	68.7
Race or ethnic group — no. (%)†					
Asian	0	0	1 (10)	0	1 (2)
White	10 (100)	10 (100)	9 (90)	10 (100)	39 (98)
Hispanic or Latino	0	0	1 (10)	0	1 (2)
Body-mass index‡	25.4±2.5	23.7±2.3	24.8±3.5	26.0±3.5	25.0±3.0

* Plus–minus values are means ±SD.

† Race or ethnic group was reported by the participants, who could select more than one category.

‡ The body-mass index is the weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in meters.

Research in Nursing Homes during COVID- 19

- Vaccine Trials
 - Nursing homes not included
 - Ambulatory older adults (<85) were included in clinical trials
- BLAZE-2
 - Monoclonal Antibodies (in progress)
- Remdesivir
 - Nursing homes not included

What's possible

- The iron is very hot!
- Huge opportunities missed so far
 - Vaccine effectiveness
- Potential impact of variants
 - Transmission
 - Risk
 - Morbidity
- Treatment Opportunities
 - Antibody treatments
 - Anti-viral treatments
- Implementation Science
 - Programs and processes
- More Delphi projects

Challenges to Research in Long Term Care

- Clinicians just don't have time
- Limited academic outreach
- VA system probably with greatest potential
- NH industry hasn't been fully engaged, might be changing
- Need to understand "culture" and workflow
- Needs encouragement!

Questions???

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