This course provides a comprehensive guide to Alzheimer’s disease and its pathology, and presents the most up-to-date criteria and guidelines for its diagnosis. Communication challenges, nutrition, incontinence, falls and restraint use, and pain and hospitalization for the person with Alzheimer’s disease are thoroughly discussed in separate chapters. Because patient-centered nursing care reaches beyond the physical care of the person, spirituality, palliative care and end-of-life issues are examined in the context of the person with Alzheimer’s disease. Pharmacological and nonpharmacological interventions are covered extensively as well as all aspects of caregiving and caregiver planning.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2020.

Course Objectives

- Differentiate the characteristics and biological processes of Alzheimer’s disease from those in other types of cognitive impairments.
- Compare the normal changes of an aging brain with the changes that occur in the brain of someone with Alzheimer’s disease.
- Explain the diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease and the impact nurses can have on patient and family outcomes.
- Identify nursing best practices for communicating, providing patient-centered care, and using touch therapy and humor therapy with patients who have Alzheimer’s disease.
- Describe nutritional concerns and incontinence in patients with Alzheimer’s disease.
- Discuss falls, fall prevention, and restraint use in patients with Alzheimer’s disease.
- Explain the assessment and management of pain in patients with Alzheimer’s disease as well as reasons for hospitalization.
- Describe holistic nursing care, concepts of spirituality, and special palliative care and end-of-life needs of people with Alzheimer’s disease.
- Recognize common principles and models for understanding, preventing, and responding to the challenging behaviors of patients with Alzheimer’s disease.
- Recognize common nonpharmacologic interventions for managing the behavior of patients with Alzheimer’s disease as well as pharmacologic principles that guide their care.
- Recognize the challenges and issues that caregivers face in providing long-term care for patients with Alzheimer’s disease.