Passionate about Change: Establishing Therapeutic Relationships in Dementia Care
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Problem:
Clients with Dementia need to feel part of a caring community which values and respects them. They need to be valued not just for what they have contributed in the past, but as they are right now.

Evidence:
The hurried pace and emphasis on efficiency in my clinical area was challenging the staff’s ability to establish and maintain therapeutic relationships. Interactions with the clients were often infrequent, brief, and reflected a lack of engagement on the part of the staff, which may have devalued the client population.

Strategy:
The purpose of my change project was to encourage staff awareness and education regarding the process of knowledge transfer by facilitating the movement of research into knowledge with the implementation of establishing therapeutic relationships in Dementia Care.

Practice Change:
In this presentation the speaker will describe the process of developing an implementation project to promote client centered care. I will discuss how I gave the staff the tools they needed to become influencers of change, and provide a more individualized approach to care.

Evaluation and Results:
I will consider how nurses and clients can work together so that the client feels empowered and has more control over decisions related to their care, and the staff recognizes that their clients although frail, are more able to make decisions for themselves.

Recommendations and Lessons Learned:
Change is never easy; it is a slow process and takes many baby steps to reach the final goal. This has been a growing process and one that has changed the way we look at our elder care.