

Dysphagia Care Among Seniors

This project proposes to identify and assess Los Angeles County assisted living residents suffering from undiagnosed, untreated or under treated dysphagia. It aims to develop processes for early identification and treatment for this debilitating condition, as well as educational programs for seniors, caregivers, families and professionals. Predicted outcomes are both measurable and significant.

Solution

At risk seniors will be able to benefit from early identification and treatment for this debilitating condition. The program will seek to attract seniors representing a broad array of ethnicities and diagnoses from within independent and assisted living facilities that agree to participate in the program. Ultimately, the goal is to roll out the screening and educational program to economically and culturally diverse populations, working with management at the independent and assisted living facilities to institutionalize the program.

The initial screening and education program of Dysphagia Care Among Seniors will focus on approximately 1,000 of these individuals and facilities, geographically distributed around the county. It is estimated that twice that number or 4% of seniors in L.A. assisted living facilities will be touched during the recruitment process in order to achieve the desired sample.

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