**Ilya Shvabskiy**

**How the Elderly People are Abused in the Nursing Home?**

(1.) **Medical Neglect-**

**Sometimes the elderly patients are deprived of appropriate and timely medical care. Because elderly people usually have a variety of physical complaints, they often have a lot of complaints. Sometimes those complaints are not taken seriously, and as a result, allowing more serious ailments to go undetected. Other times, the patients can develop bedsores, which is an indication that the patient was not adequately cared for. While having an overly demanding schedule is not an excuse for medical neglect, it is also a real fact of life. Perhaps these issues can be addressed on a higher level. I think that the workers need to have a more realistic caseload in terms of the number of patients that they are responsible for. We often hear about accidents happening when a caretaker was on break, and the person was not being appropriately supervised.**

(2.) **Physical Abuse-**

- **Working with the elderly population can be challenging for a number of reasons:**

**For one thing, it requires a great deal of patience. When the staff is overburdened, their patience can be tested, resulting in the elderly being physically abused, when they are unable to do things in a timely manner. Furthermore, some elderly patients can have cognitive impairments, which prevent them from fully expressing themselves. As a result, they are unable to verbalize their needs. This can lead to frustration, and frustration can lead to them acting out at times. As with young children, adults who are acting out often do not get the best treatment from the staff. Because the elderly are constantly dependent upon the staff, and therefore fearing retaliation, the abuse is often underreported. A more effective means of monitoring a patient’s well being should be established in order to prevent any further abuse that takes place. This might include developing outside agencies, which will monitor the patient’s well being, instead of only relying on the resident staff. Furthermore, the evaluation should be based on actual patient interactions, rather than on paperwork only.**

(3.) **Poor Hygiene-**

**- It is not uncommon to notice a certain scent when visiting a nursing home. While some might accept this as an industry standard, I feel that this is an indicator of neglect, because of poor hygiene. I ask myself, are the residents bathed regularly? Are their clothing laundered properly? Are they well groomed? Are the residents dressed properly, and appropriate to the weather? Also, it is common that residents are given the bare minimum, because of poor funding. As a result, residents might have the least important essentials, and nothing more. I think nursing homes can do more like increase funding. While the state funding might be standardized to some extent, the local community is often an unused resource, when it comes to funding. If the community and/or person has a family member, or if they know someone in the home, they are more likely to donate money or participate in fund raisers, because the money that is made will directly benefit the person they know.**

(4.) **Lack of Stimulating Activities-**

**This form of abuse is much less noticeable. Frequently in nursing homes, the residents are left to themselves, without any stimulating agenda’s to make their day more structured and interesting. As a result, many of the residents decline rapidly due to a lack of activity. Whether it’s interesting arts and crafts or outdoor activities, the elderly need more stimulation to maintain their health. Stagnation brings on health issues, not to mention depression. I feel that this is overlooked, and is often viewed as a luxury, rather than a necessity.**