

## oooo6 An Integrative Review Of Nurses' Management Of Urinary Incontinence in Hospitalized Older Adults

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**Aims:** Urinary incontinence (UI) can be defined as the involuntary loss of urine resulting from the inability to reach the toilet due to cognitive, functional, or mobility impairments in the presence of an intact lower urinary tract system. UI is costly to acute hospital systems.

This paper is a report of an integrative review aimed at examining the strategies that nurses use to manage urinary incontinence in hospitalized older adults in acute hospital settings.

**Methodology:** Systematic computer searches were conducted of the MEDLINE and Cochrane databases, the PubMed Journals and MeSH databases, Google Scholar, CINAHL and EMBASE databases, including Up-to-Date, covering the period of 2000 to 2017. A narrative review summarizes evidence-based nursing strategies including study designs, patient populations and the interventions employed to manage UI. The qualities of the evidence base of the studies were assessed using methods from the GRADE criteria.

**Result:** 10 studies and 2 integrative reviews, were identified and summarised, that met the inclusion criteria. The studies revealed that nursing team members lacked knowledge regarding the importance of assessing for UI, recognizing the different types of UI, and different types of continence strategies. Few themes were identified across studies: nursing assessment, continence management strategies, nursing knowledge, older adult care perceptions, acute care settings, and nursing role in continence care.

**Conclusion:** This review depicts that there is a lack of nursing knowledge about UI assessment. Use of UI assessment tools by nursing staff to properly identify appropriate continence strategies is the first step in understanding which continence strategy to use. In view of this situation, clinical research on urinary incontinence treatment and management by nurses is needed, so as to provide scientific evidence to support clinical practice. This favorable activity area for nurses can also involve changing well established habits.