

Resident abuse: An insider's perspective

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In 1992, the Canadian Nurses Association identified violence as a health care concern that falls within the mandate of nursing. Nurses' caregiving role, background in interpersonal communication, ability to maintain close associations with care recipients, and holistic orientation to health, places them in an optimal position to assist older residents for whom abuse is a concern. In order to provide excellent care, nurses practice within their code of ethics and professional mandate.

The purpose of this ethnographic study was to assess how members of the long-term care institutional culture perceived and defined resident abuse. Groups of registered nurses, nonprofessional staff, family members, and older adults were interviewed individually and participated in focus groups. Resident abuse was perceived by participants, in this study, as an experience that causes a perception of hurt in older residents. This perception is voiced by either older residents themselves or others on their behalf. Participants' views about resident abuse are always framed within the context of institutional life.

Canadian Nurses Association. (1992). *Family violence: Clinical guidelines for nurses*. Ottawa: Author.