

**Table 7: Suggested Topics for Educational Programs for Nurses and Other Health-Care Providers**

GENERAL RECOMMENDED CONTENT	REFERENCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Normal aging</li> <li>■ Diseases of old age</li> <li>■ How to conduct a comprehensive assessment with the older adult and family*</li> <li>■ Foundational content/guiding principles, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ person- and family centred care</li> <li>□ acknowledging and building on strengths</li> <li>□ engaging families</li> <li>□ care transitions<sup>6</sup> (including coordination of care across health-care settings)*</li> <li>□ therapeutic relationships and relational practice*</li> <li>□ communication strategies</li> <li>□ interprofessional collaboration</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Self-care and safety for health-care providers*</li> <li>■ Reflective practice<sup>G</sup> for health-care providers*</li> </ul>	<p>Elliott et al., 2012; Fossey et al., 2014; Lawrence et al., 2012; RNAO, 2010a, 2010b</p>
CONTENT APPLICABLE TO DELIRIUM, DEMENTIA, AND DEPRESSION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Background information               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ epidemiology</li> <li>□ pathophysiology</li> <li>□ types of delirium, dementia, and depression</li> <li>□ impact of delirium, dementia, and depression on older adults and their families</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Signs and symptoms of delirium, dementia, and depression, and overlapping clinical features of the three conditions</li> <li>■ Accurate use of tools for screening and assessment</li> <li>■ Conducting screening and assessment with critical clinical judgment and with sensitivity to the person's individual needs and preferences*</li> <li>■ Atypical presentation in older adults (e.g.,- somatic signs of depression)*</li> <li>■ Common diagnostic tests or procedures</li> <li>■ Documentation and referral processes</li> <li>■ Management strategies:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ types and benefits of non-pharmacological approaches and psychosocial interventions</li> <li>□ pharmacological interventions: benefits, harms, and precautions of medications</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Alternatives to the use of restraints*</li> <li>■ Resources, supports, and local services</li> <li>■ Addressing personal attitudes and stigma, and building cultural competence*</li> <li>■ Educational and supportive interventions for family and caregivers</li> </ul>	<p>CCSMH, 2010; Development Group, 2010; Giebel et al., 2015; Lawrence et al., 2012; RNAO, 2010a, 2010b</p>

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ADDITIONAL CONTENT—DELIRIUM	REFERENCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Predisposing and precipitating factors for delirium</li> <li>■ Urgency (delirium is a medical emergency)</li> <li>■ Strategies to prevent delirium*</li> </ul>	CCSMH, 2010
ADDITIONAL CONTENT—DEMENTIA	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Knowledge and understanding of BPSD, and possible reasons for behaviours</li> <li>■ Strategies for managing/responding to BPSD</li> <li>■ Ethical and legal aspects related to dementia (e.g., elder abuse, advanced care planning, mental capacity)</li> <li>■ Assessment and management of pain (nonverbal)</li> <li>■ Strategies to preserve abilities and delay decline</li> <li>■ Communication strategies for people with dementia</li> </ul>	Development Group, 2010; Eggenberger et al., 2013; Enmarker et al., 2011; Konno et al., 2013; Livingston et al., 2014; Pieper et al., 2013; RNAO, 2010a
ADDITIONAL CONTENT—DEPRESSION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Signs and symptoms of depression unique to older adults</li> <li>■ Importance of screening for suicide risk                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ early recognition</li> <li>□ immediate referral</li> <li>□ how to ask about suicide*</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Recovery from depression is possible*</li> </ul>	Dreizler et al., 2014; O'Connor et al., 2009; RNAO, 2010a

Note: Content added by the expert panel is indicated with an asterisk (\*).

### RECOMMENDATION 14.3:

Design dynamic, evidence-based educational programs on delirium, dementia, and depression that support the transfer of knowledge and skills to the practice setting. Such programs should be:

- interactive and multimodal (level of evidence = Ia),
- interprofessional (level of evidence = Ia),
- tailored to address learners' needs (level of evidence = V),
- reinforced at the point of care by strategies and tools (level of evidence = Ia), and
- supported by trained champions or clinical experts (level of evidence = Ia).