Safety in Elderly Nursing Home Design: An Overlooked Patient Safety Issue

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ABSTRACT

Various studies have shown that alongside the social and psychological factors, the design and architectural appearance of a nursing home can have a great impact on the safety of the elderly residing in such place. However, the deficiency of information on how these factors can be operationalized in practice is not provided for architects and interior designers. Therefore, this study is aimed to inspect which architectural factors contribute to maximize the elderly patient safety and how these can be implemented in the architectural and policy guidelines. The objective of this study is also to get better understanding of potential opportunities and challenges associated with interior design that may promote well-being, aging in place, and independent living of the senior citizens. A holistic understanding of which factors influence the maximum safety could lead to improvements of the elderly nursing home designs and the residents. In order to take precautions, we must first understand the unique risks faced by the seniors at home.

Keywords: Elderly, Nursing Home, Care, Patient Safety