

# Geriatric Nursing Competencies Related to Health Literacy

Prepared by Janet C. Frank, DrPH

Source: AACN & John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing (2000).  
*Older Adults: Recommended Baccalaureate Competencies and Curricular Guidelines for Geriatric Nursing Care*

- ◆ Recognize one's own and others' attitudes, values, and expectations about aging about aging and their impact on care of older adults and their families
- ◆ Communicate effectively, respectfully, and compassionately with older adults and their families.
- ◆ Assess family knowledge of skills necessary to deliver care to older adults
- ◆ Facilitate communication as older adults transition across and between home, hospital, and nursing home, with a particular focus on the use of technology.
- ◆ Assist older adults, families, and caregivers to understand and balance "everyday" autonomy and safety decisions
- ◆ Apply ethical and legal principles to the complex issues that arise in care of older adults
- ◆ Appreciate the influence of attitudes, roles, language, culture, race, religion, gender and lifestyle on how families and assistive personnel provide care to older adults.
- ◆ Evaluate the utility of complementary and integrative health care practices on health promotion and symptom management for older adults.
- ◆ Facilitate older adults' active participation in all aspects of their own health care.
- ◆ Involve, educate, and when appropriate, supervise family, friends, and assistive personnel in implementing best practices for older adults.
- ◆ Ensure quality of care commensurate with older adults' vulnerability and frequency and intensity of care needs.
- ◆ Promote quality preventive and end-of-life care for older adults as essential, desirable, and integral components of nursing practice.