

## Protecting and Serving Vulnerable Older Adults: Best Ethical Practices for Healthcare Professionals

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Healthcare professionals have a multifaceted role in protecting vulnerable patients and residents, encompassing legal, ethical and practical responsibilities. Their overarching duty is to safeguard individuals from abuse, neglect and exploitation, while promoting their well-being. Providers must develop approaches to help protect vulnerable patients and/or residents, which includes ethical conduct, observation and reporting, communication and collaboration with other professionals. This presentation will discuss and analyze the importance of adherence to clinical and ethical governance standards for conduct, care, and information sharing to help ensure patient safety and well-being.

### Following this presentation, the participant will be able to:

1. Review effective communication strategies for conveying observations and concerns to other professionals, and for involving patients in decisions about their care.
2. Develop a plan to foster a culture of safety and protection by providing staff with adequate training and support to recognize and respond to safeguarding concerns.
3. Evaluate processes in a care setting to respect a patient or resident's autonomy and help promote their participation in their own care.
4. Review the 4 R's of safeguarding vulnerable populations.

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