The Center for Excellence in Long-Term Care is a partnership between the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing.

Mission
To promote the highest standards of geriatric care in the nation for the benefit of the citizens of Texas using advances in technology, research, and education.

Objective
To create an educational platform for the delivery of geriatric and disability best practices to providers of geriatric care in Texas.

Approach
The Center for Excellence in Long-Term Care offers a web-based platform for the delivery of best practices, with a focus on geriatrics and disabilities. The content on the website has been adapted to meet the educational needs of a variety of professionals who provide care to residents of long-term care facilities in Texas.

Phase I: Improving Dementia Care (Now Available!)
Phase I includes online modules that promote best practices to improve service delivery and positive outcomes for residents with dementia. Topics include:

- The needs and experiences of people with dementia
- The needs and experiences of family and friends of people with dementia
- Current treatment options
- State and national trends in the use of antipsychotic medications

Modules are available for:
- Nurses at all levels of licensure (APRNs, RNs, LVNs)
- Certified Nursing Assistants
- Nursing Facility Administrators
- Physicians
- Family Caregivers and other lay providers

Phase II: Geriatric Nursing Specialty Education (Available Spring 2017)
The objective of the Geriatric Nursing Specialty Education training program is to provide education, best practices and clinical guidelines that will be used to transition nurses in geriatric care, specifically to the long-term care settings. Topics will include:

- Dementia and dementia care
- Pharmacological related considerations
- Systematic review of the geriatric patient
- Overview of long-term care settings, including regulatory oversight

Phase III: Geriatric Transition to Practice (Available Fall 2017)
The modules in Phase III will focus on the learning needs of nurses (both LVNs and RNs) who are entering the long-term care setting for the first time.

Leadership
Tracie C. Harrison, PhD., R.N., FAAN, GSA
Associate Professor and Director, Center for Excellence in Long-Term Care

Dr. Harrison’s research interests include the intersection between age related change and functional impairment and how that affects social role performance and subsequent health outcomes. Her policy research interests surround the federal and state laws that affect the long-term health related policies providing benefits and/or services to people aging in long-term care and their respective communities with disabilities, including worker’s compensation, Medicare and Medicaid related legislation.

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