

Acute Care of the Elderly (ACE)



**JANE PHILLIPS
MEDICAL CENTER**

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What is Jane Phillips Medical Center's Acute Care of the Elderly (ACE) Unit?

The purpose of the ACE Unit is to provide nursing care to vulnerable older adults in an acute hospitalization with special emphasis on prevention of functional and cognitive decline.

Patients with several chronic medical conditions, dementia, and/or delirium in addition to their primary diagnosis, are susceptible for functional/cognitive decline. The patients that have the potential to regain their previous level of functioning that existed before becoming ill are candidates for the ACE Unit. Intense pro-active nursing measures are initiated in an effort of healing for the patient.

The ACE Unit is one aspect of the Jane Phillip's Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) Program. The NICHE program is a national nurse-driven program which benefits older hospitalized adults.

About This Unit

The physical environment of the ACE Unit is designed with the elderly needs in mind. Geriatric-friendly colors, furnishings, and gentle, recessed lighting in patient rooms are a few of the special amenities on the Unit.

There is no age limit for qualification to be an ACE Unit patient. A younger adult may have co-morbidities that make them vulnerable and may be admitted to this unit.

Our Dedicated Staff

Our nursing staff have a desire to care for the elderly patient. Each nursing staff member has received specialized training in care of the older hospitalized patient.

Why This Unit?

Almost half of all inpatients in America's hospitals are over the age of 65 and one third to one half of these patients are over 80 years of age. When ill, an older person is more vulnerable for functional and medical decline. Nursing staff, with special training and education, utilize intense pro-active nursing measures in an attempt to prevent potential decline.

Nursing Measures

Proactive nursing measures are initiated in an intense effort of healing for the frail patients.

Nursing measures include frequent toileting, mobility measures, monitoring for delirium and other geriatric measures.

Hourly rounding is also a routine of this Unit. Your loved one will be checked on every hour by a staff member to prevent falls, offer toileting, positioning, and to address pain control.