



THE KENDAL[®] SYSTEM



Research Agenda



The Kendal System

The Kendal Corporation is a not-for-profit, charitable organization whose primary mission is to serve the needs of older people in our society. Founded in 1971, The Kendal Corporation has developed six affiliate continuing care retirement communities, two residential living communities, and a skilled nursing/assisted living facility in five states. Two additional communities are currently under development. Kendal-affiliated communities can be found in Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire, Ohio, and Virginia and total 1,272 residential units, 350 nursing care beds, and 272 assisted living units. Committed to lifelong learning, Kendal communities are known for developing relationships with local educational institutions.

Mission

The mission of The Kendal Corporation is to develop, support, and lead a system of communities and services for older persons. One important way to live this mission is to promote the systematic study of issues related to older persons and to incorporate research findings into improving the quality of care and services. Facilitating the conduct of clinically based research and promoting the application of research findings through evidence-based practice are key to Kendal's role in shaping the future of care for older Americans.

Core Values

The Kendal System has identified a research agenda that is based on its Values and Standards and is consistent with the needs of its residents and staff. The Kendal System's Research Agenda is guided by these core values:

- An enhanced quality of life that honors each resident's basic human rights, including independence, privacy, and self-respect;
- A commitment to a high quality health care program that offers a continuum of care; and
- The creation of a homelike, non-institutional physical environment that gives Kendal residents a sense of security, wellness, and satisfaction.

Partnering Opportunities

The Kendal System is committed to supporting its research agenda and is actively pursuing opportunities to partner with researchers, funding agencies, and individual donors. We welcome discussions with researchers and educators who may be interested in pursuing collaborative studies involving one or all Kendal Communities.



Please direct research inquiries to:

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Individuals or foundations interested in supporting these research endeavors, please contact:

Kendal Charitable Funds
P.O. Box 100
Kennett Square, PA 19348



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Flowing from each of the core values are research questions identified by Kendal staff and residents as important areas for scholarly inquiry. Kendal is committed to collaborating with academic and service organizations to advance the science and art of care and services for older persons both within its communities and within the field of aging service. This Research Agenda delineates the areas of priority for Kendal-facilitated research. It is intended to be a dynamic and ongoing document that is reviewed and revised regularly to reflect evolving needs and changing priorities in aging service.

1

Core Value: An enhanced quality of life that honors each resident's basic human rights, including independence, privacy, and self-respect.

Research Questions

Quality of Life and Maintaining Independence

- What is quality of life from the resident's perspective and what practices/programs can contribute positively to quality of life?
- What measures, both traditional and non-traditional, are most effective in managing pain and improving quality of life in older persons?

Resident Involvement in Care

- How can family members, significant others, and health advocates be involved in resident care, and what effect does involvement have on the resident's physical, emotional, and psychological function?

Technology

- What technology is available or could be developed to enhance quality of life, improve quality of care, and support independence and safety of residents?
- What technology is available or could be developed to enhance communication among staff and improve efficiency and effectiveness?

2

Core Value: A commitment to a high quality health care program that offers a continuum of care.

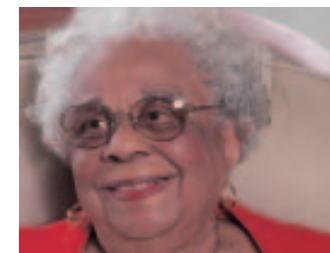
Research Questions

Care of the Cognitively Impaired

- What are signs of the initial stages of cognitive impairment and what can be done to slow the progression and optimize capabilities to maintain independence longer? What role does assessment, early detection and intervention, and staff education have on the progress of dementia?
- What design features are particularly important in supporting residents with dementia and residents with sensory losses?

The Continuum of Care

- How and when do residents move through the continuum in a continuing care retirement community? What characteristics are predictive of and what characteristics necessitate a transition in level of care?



3

Core Value: The creation of a homelike, non-institutional physical environment that gives Kendal residents a sense of security, wellness, and satisfaction.

Research Questions

Physical Design

- What design features enhance residents' function, independence, and interaction? What design features reduce residents' function, independence and interaction?
- What design features minimize staff time to complete essential functions? What design features extend staff time to complete essential functions?

