

## **Managing Medication Management in Assisted Living: A Situational Analysis**

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*The use, administration, and monitoring of medications within assisted living residences (ALR) represents an ongoing problem for people who live in, work in, and oversee this type of long-term care. Some proponents argue that these settings should promote the independence, choice, and privacy of residents; but when it comes to medications, these goals create a predicament both within and outside the walls of the ALR. This article defines medication management as a social situation involving multiple actors with complex relations, social worlds, and discourses. Situational analysis is used to analyze data from a 5-year ethnographic study of 6 settings in Maryland. I explain how 2 dominant discourses, safety and autonomy, disguise other important issues by demanding more attention than deserved.*

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## **Religious Influences of Individuals With Cancer in Remission**

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*Utilizing qualitative methodologies, we interviewed 25 cancer patients whose disease currently was in remission. We gave attention to the impact of personal faith (particularly Christian beliefs) on coping methods. Results showed percepts of God altering views toward their cancer in the following ways: a release of control, ushering in a sense of peace, and serving as a foundation in which to trust. In addition, the cancer experience enabled participants to gain hope in an eternal perspective and served as a faith-strengthening catalyst. These Christians, who were cancer patients in remission, also emphasized the sizable impact of others in their cancer journey. Of note, others served as a source of pouring-in, and family members, friends, and church contacts provided physical, emotional, and spiritual support through all phases of the cancer process. These social networks also served as a source of pouring-out. After receiving support, participants wished to reciprocate in the lives of loved ones and in the lives of others with cancer. Implications for health-care providers, family members, and researchers also are discussed.*

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## **Getting Serious About Humor: Attitudes of Secondary Teachers Toward The Use of Humor as a Teaching Strategy**

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*Ten secondary teachers representing a successful K-12, one building, public school district were interviewed regarding the use of humor as a pedagogical tool. Because this study was concerned with actors' perceptions and interpretations, it drew on the interpretive tradition. Through criterion-based selection, participants were chosen for their expertise with best teaching practices and because the school consistently produced scores above the state average in all academic areas. Open coding of interview transcripts revealed that teachers believed humor contributes to a more enjoyable classroom climate, helps students make content connections, and relaxes students. Teachers differed as to whether humor enhances or detracts from an instructor's professional credibility. Participants identified both appropriate and inappropriate types of humor.*

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## **The Impact of Stories: Experiences of Post-Secondary Students in Resiliency Development Education**

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*Students leaving home for college face new challenges and adversities as they experience newfound independence. Their abilities to be resilient or to bounce back from various challenges determine their successes as students and eventually throughout life. This article examines the findings from a phenomenological study of 11 students who participated in resiliency development education during their first semester. The data confirmed that an awareness of the protective factors of resiliency, when taught through the pedagogy of storytelling, allowed the students to examine their life stories, making personal meaning while enhancing choices and behaviors characteristic of resilient individuals.*

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## **Exploring the Influence of Marital Status on Women's Retirement Experiences**

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*Women's retirement is an unexplored phenomenon due to perceptions of the transition as relevant only to men. Furthermore, due to declining marriage rates, increased divorce rates, and the likelihood of experiencing widowhood, retired women's marital histories are increasingly varied. To explore the influence of marital status on women's retirement, we interviewed 40 women from a Midwestern state and asked them to describe their retirement experiences. Using purposeful sampling, we targeted women who were diverse in marital status, age, ethnicity, occupational background, and income. Results indicated that women's marital status influenced their retirement experiences, specifically regarding: (1) retirement decisions, (2) social relationships, and (3) freedom and independence in retirement. These findings are discussed and suggestions are made to recognize retired women's diverse marital histories.*

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## **Leaders "Sitting Beside" Followers: A Phenomenology of Teacher Leadership**

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*This study explored the phenomenon of peer leadership through the investigation of the experiences of 10 teachers who engaged in leading colleagues in such roles as professional development coach, technology expert, department chair, and informal mentor. Following Moustakas' (1994) transcendental phenomenology method of inquiry, the study utilized in-depth interviews to answer 2 questions: (a) What are co-researchers' experiences of the phenomenon, peer leadership, and (b) In what contexts or situations do co-researchers experience peer leadership? Four themes emerged: (a) fostering relationships, (b) monitoring self, (c) managing perceptions, and (d) engaging in a purpose. Collectively, these themes describe the essence of teacher leadership as "sitting beside" followers.*

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