

Nursing and Allied Health Abstracts

Title: A DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH TO MANAGING BLADDER INCONTINENCE

Presenting Author: Jean Brown, Shriners Hospital

Background: After working with children and young adults with spina bifida and their families for almost 25 years, it has become clear that managing continence is a developmental process. Timely intervention by nursing and allied health professionals can be instrumental in successful outcomes for young adults to manage their neurogenic bladders.

Method: Literature review, clinical experience and peer collaboration was used to create a useful and practical developmental approach to assisting children and families in managing bladder incontinence.

Results: Presentation will describe and illustrate developmental stages and interventions that result in successful transition to independent social continence in the young adult with spina bifida and neurogenic bladder.

Conclusion: Ability to independently manage the neurogenic bladder is a developmental process that can be facilitated by timely intervention by health care providers.