

The Geriatric Technician Survey

Over the last 8-months, a research assistant has been screening geriatric patients in the emergency department (ED) in regards to a number of clinical questions: occult dementia, fall-risk, functional decline, and frailty. We have labeled this research assistant a “Geriatric Technician”. During this period, you received several e-mail notifications of these screening efforts. You may have encountered the research assistants while caring for patients. The objective of this survey is to anonymously assess the nursing staff opinion regarding the potential role for the Geriatric Technician in the ED. For the purpose of these questions, assume that the Geriatric Technician is cost-neutral to the ED budget.

Question 1

Do you believe having a Geriatric Technician, dedicated to screening older adults for geriatric syndromes would be an overall benefit to patients?

YES NO Uncertain

Question 2

If you answered **no or uncertain**, please circle all applicable reasons for this response:

Screening may not be within the realm of emergency medicine (EM)

Screening is already being performed by EM physicians or nurses

Screening will delay ED throughput

Screening will not significantly improve outcomes in this population

Screening is too costly and could never be cost-effective

Screening is too invasive for the patient or family

Other: _____

For the following questions please completely fill in the bubble adjacent to the response that most closely approximates your opinion across the gradient of possibilities.

Example:

I like snow in the winter.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neutral

Agree

Strongly Agree

Question 3

Please rate the **overall difficulty in implementing** a full-time ED Geriatric Technician within the routine care of your patients:

Not Difficult at all
to Implement

Neutral

Extremely
Difficult to
Implement

What difficulties do you foresee?

Question 4

Very Positive
Effect on Patient
Care

Neutral

Very Negative
Effect on Patient
Care

If negative, why?

Question 5

Please rate the potential impact of an ED Geriatric Technician on **patient care**:

Very Positive Neutral Very Negative
 Effect on Patient Effect on Patient
 Care Care

If negative, why?

Question 6

In your emergency care of adults over age 65 years, do you routinely (>50% of patient encounters) perform any of the following assessments **using validated screening tools**?

Prognosis	YES	NO
Fall risk	YES	NO
Dementia screen	YES	NO
Visual acuity	YES	NO
Auditory acuity	YES	NO
Polypharmacy screening	YES	NO
Formal functional assessment	YES	NO
Immunization status	YES	NO

If you do not use validated screening tools, why not? _____

Question 7

Geriatric technician screening significantly slowed the care of my older adult patients impeding ED throughout.

YES NO

Question 8

How many post-residency years have you been a practicing emergency physician? (physicians)

How many years have you been a practicing nurse? (nurses)

<1 year 1–5 years 6–10 years >10 years