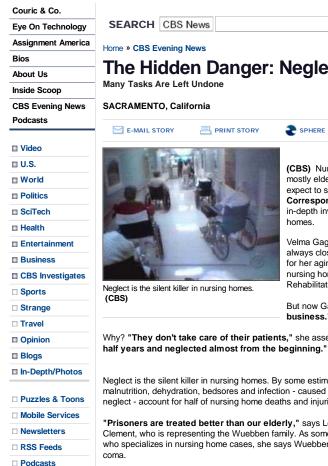
• Log in June 8, 2009 11:46amRegister Help

CBS EVENING NEWS | THE EARLY SHOW | 48 HOURS MYSTERY | 60 MINUTES | SUNDAY MORNING | FACE THE NATION | UP TO THE MINUTE



□ Get Widgets



PRINT STORY

E-MAIL STORY

Nealect is the silent killer in nursing homes (CBS)

Double-click any word (What's this?)

TEXT SIZE: A A A

(CBS) Nursing homes are home to a million and a half mostly elderly people. Millions more baby boomers can expect to spend their final days there. CBS News Correspondent Vince Gonzales continues an in-depth investigation into this country's nursing homes.

SHARE

Velma Gagnon and her mother, Artie Wuebben, were always close. So when Gagnon could no longer care for her aging mother, she placed her in a nearby nursing home. Vacaville Convalescent and Rehabilitation Center, where she could visit every day

But now Gagnon says, "I wish they were out of business.

**Nursing Home Web** 

Click here for reports and

Why? "They don't take care of their patients," she asserts. "My mother was there for two and a

Links

resources

Neglect is the silent killer in nursing homes. By some estimates, malnutrition, dehydration, bedsores and infection - caused by

neglect - account for half of nursing home deaths and injuries.

"Prisoners are treated better than our elderly," says Lesley Clement, who is representing the Wuebben family. As someone

who specializes in nursing home cases, she says Wuebben was so badly neglected she slipped into a

SPHERE

Emergency room doctors concluded she was "grossly dehydrated."

CBS News analyzed nursing home inspection reports and found more than 3,500 homes were cited last year for poor care that could cause dehydration. In almost 500 cases, patients were seriously injured or even died as a result.

"I know they killed her," Gagnon says. "I know they killed my mom."

But this is not what the medical records say. They show she was well cared for - and that's the problem. On some dates the staff notes she was out of bed and walking - quite a feat since she was still in a coma.

One report shows she was alert and received care on March 27 and 28. That was two days after she was already dead. Later, someone tried to white out the fake entries. Click here to view the Care

"What this shows is that they are charting by rote, that they are not actually charting care that they're giving her. They're sitting down at the end of the week, and they're just filling in the boxes." Clement says.

Federal investigators say "false charting" is common. Workers at several other homes who make little more than minimum wage told CBS News it happens because the facilities are severely understaffed. They all asked CBS News to protect their identities.

"You get family members coming in (who) scream at you 'Why has my mother been sitting in

MOST VIEWED STORIES VIDEOS PHOTOS Family Blasts Thai Media For Carradine Pix Is Palm's "Pre" An iPhone Killer? More Bodies Found Near Jet Crash Site A Lottery Winner's Rag To Riches Tale Shootout Kills 16 In Acapulco Resort NSS RSS

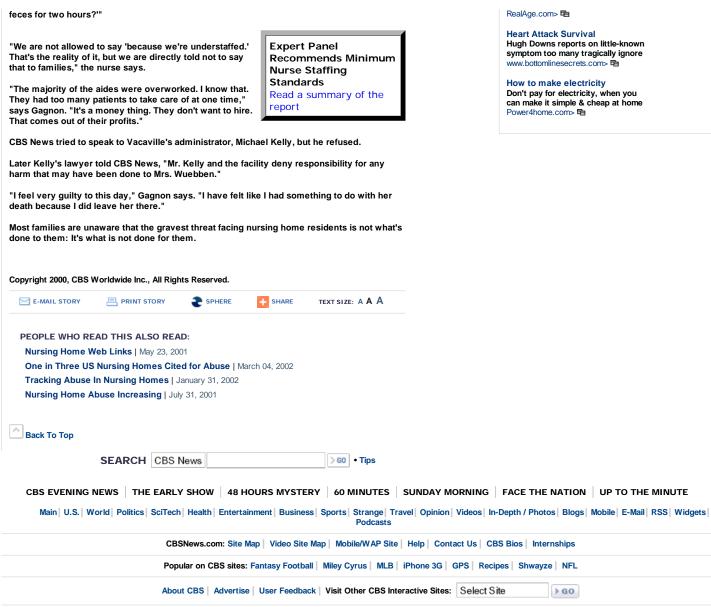






Dr. Oz's Shocking Test Millions have already taken this amazing test. What's your RealAge?

6/8/2009 11:46 AM 1 of 2



© 2009, CBS Interactive Inc. All Rights Reserved | Privacy Policy | Terms of Use

2 of 2