

Role of Education & Dementia Education Programme Update

Dementia Care in Acute Hospitals Conference

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Presentation Overview

- Barbara's Story
 - Acute Services and Dementia
 - National Policy & Reports
 - National Dementia Education Project: Needs Analysis, Progress to-date
 - Dementia Champion in the Acute Care Setting
 - Gaps & Challenges for Dementia Education
 - Future Plans for Dementia Education
 - References
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Barbara's Story

Delivering dignity for older people
and those with dementia

The dementia patient is not giving
you a hard time. The dementia patient
is having a hard time

Awareness!

Designed by Kerry Kleinbergen
A Patient With Early Onset Alzheimers

Acute Services and Dementia

What we know

- Up to 25% of acute hospital beds occupied by person with dementia
 - 50% of dementia in acute hospitals goes unrecognised
 - If diagnosed - not always recorded or communicated accurately
 - Detection and assessment poor
 - Adverse outcomes – higher mortality and length of stay four times longer than other people over 65
 - People with dementia, while in acute care, at risk of developing major complications including pressure sores, falls & incontinence
 - Hospital environment inappropriate
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Research tells us that

- What happens in general hospitals can have a profound and permanent effect on individuals with dementia and their families
 - People with dementia in acute hospitals experience worse outcomes than those without dementia
 - Strong association between lack of meaningful activity/occupation and responsive behaviours & depression
 - Therapeutic activity programmes decrease responsive behaviours by providing engagement in pleasant activities
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We do know that:-

- Improved services can enhance quality of care, shorten their length of stay and reduce costs
 - Even short courses can have an impact on staff's attitudes and knowledge.
 - Significant reduction in responsive behaviours & use of psychotropic drugs & restraints after interventions.
 - Communication skills essential for supporting people with responsive behaviours
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National Policy & Reports Identified:

- Staff who have the most contact often have the least knowledge
 - Organisations employ staff who may lack knowledge
 - Need for education & skill development for staff to provide evidence based person-centred dementia care
 - Skills needed to identify medical, functional and environmental limitations
 - Need for better understanding of cognitive impairment among health care staff in acute services
 - Need for Psychosocial Approaches
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National Dementia Education Project

Overview

- National steering group established
 - Project plan developed
 - Audit of programmes available/provided nationally
 - Literature review completed
 - National Educational needs analysis conducted
 - Suite of dementia education programmes developed sequentially, based on best practice, needs analysis, and continuous evaluation
 - National Governance Structure established
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Educational Needs Analysis & Research

- 83% of registered nurses had not received training in dementia care in past 5 years in RoI
 - 78% of care staff have not received training in dementia care in past 5 years in RoI
 - In the acute sector 5% of Nurses and 21% of care staff had received dementia training.
 - Need for education for staff in acute settings
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Recommendations – Needs Analysis (RoI)

- Modular generic education/awareness programme
 - Multidisciplinary groups to have access
 - Programmes to be delivered within a person-centred philosophy, taking into account experience of adult learners
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Recommendations – Needs Analysis (RoI) contd.

- Learning methodologies to facilitate practical application and implementation of programme
 - Additional area specific modules to be developed
 - A structure to develop and facilitate local peer support
 - Structured management support and buy in essential
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National Project - Progress to date

- Generic Educational Dementia Programme
 - Early Identification of Memory Problems
 - Dementia Champion Module (Level 8)
 - Home Help Education Awareness Resources
 - Delirium Awareness Information
 - Responsive Behaviours Programme
 - National Governance Group established
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Dementia Champion & Acute Care

- While education & skill development is required across the spectrum, there is a need to focus on developing *Dementia Champions* in acute care



- Eliminate the use of ‘specials’ in acute care
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Gaps & Challenges

- Acute Care Poor uptake for Education
 - Moratorium/Release of staff
 - Whole systems approach
 - Involving the Person with Dementia & Carers
 - Need for creativity & new ways of working across services
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Future Plans

- HSE/DCU Dementia Elevator Project
 - Genio Projects
 - National Clinical Care Programmes
 - Undergraduate/FETAC Courses
 - Changing Minds Project IHF/HSE/ASI
 - National Dementia Acute Audit
 - National Dementia Strategy
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Meeting the challenge to build capacity

- Commitment to a person-centred philosophy
 - Good practice is not static and involves the ongoing evaluation of current practices and the development of new initiatives
 - Organisational support crucial - Education alone will not change practice
 - Strong Leadership & Management Support critical at all levels
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I Have Dementia.
My eyes do see, My ears do hear
I am still me, So let's be clear
My memory may fade,
My walk may slow
I am ME inside
Don't let me go.



www.keepinmindinc.com

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