Developing nursing in dementia care

Dementia Action Alliance Quarterly meeting; May 2014

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- The largest professional union for nursing in the UK, representing around 415,000 nurses, health care support workers and nursing students, both in the NHS and the private sector.

- The RCN represents nurses and nursing, promotes excellence in practice and shapes health policies.

- The *Nursing and Midwifery Council* set the standards for nurse education and regulates the profession.
Relationships – at the heart of what we do

- People living with dementia
- Practitioners
- Family carers/friends
The role of nursing in dementia care?

- Pre-diagnosis
- Diagnosis
- Living with dementia
- End of life & after death

Continuity, co-ordination & collaboration

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Pre-diagnosis
• Promoting awareness & preventative health
• Identifying risk factors & encouraging assessment

Diagnosis
• Person-centred assessment
• Information, support and treatment: psycho-education, pharmacological treatment ...
• Post-diagnostic support: CST, emotional support, coordination of care...

Living with dementia
• Managing complex conditions
• Pain management
• Non-pharmacological and psychosocial interventions: life story, music, physical activity, aromatherapy...

End of life
• Prognostic indicators
• Individualised end of life care plan
• Palliative care
Online resources on:
- Dementia
- Dignity
- Nutrition and hydration
- Older people

- Online learning for HCAs and APs “First Steps”
Commitment to the care of people with dementia in hospital settings

SPACE – principles to support good dementia care

1. **Staff** who are skilled and have time to care.
2. **Partnership** working with carers.
3. **Assessment** and early identification of dementia.
4. **Care plans** which are person centred and individualised.
5. **Environments** that are dementia-friendly.

See [www.rcn.org.uk/dementia](http://www.rcn.org.uk/dementia)
The Triangle of Care for dementia

1. Carers and their essential role are identified
2. Staff are ‘carer aware’ and trained
3. Information sharing and confidentiality protocols
4. Defined carer post(s)
5. Introduction & information about service
6. Range of carer support services available.
Making a Difference in Dementia: Nursing Vision and Strategy

All nurses will:

**Care**
- Know the person as well as their condition, focus on strengths and personal needs.
- Respect the time and space an individual needs.
- Support people to make decisions and engage in activities.
- Support people to live safely.
- Support people to maintain relationships.

**Compassion**
- Support people with dementia to live well and be independent, as long as possible.
- Show empathy and kindness.
- Act with integrity.
- Help and support the patient's family to maintain relationships.
- Share a person-centred approach that respects the individual and the things that matter to them.

**Competence**
- Recognize the value of your role in dementia care no matter what specialty of care you provide.
- Understand the complex physical, mental health, emotional and spiritual needs of a person with dementia.
- Work in partnership with the care team.
- Communicate accurately to support the person's needs.
- Provide information about knowledge and tools to provide quality care between the person with dementia and their community.
- Respect the family.
- Support people to maintain relationships.
- Support people to live well.
- Support people to maintain relationships.
- Support people to maintain relationships.

**Communication**
- Recognize everyone can contribute to early identification, diagnosis, support, and treatment.
- Work in partnership with the care team.
- Communicate accurately to support the person's needs.
- Provide information about knowledge and tools to provide quality care between the person with dementia and their community.
- Respect the family.
- Support people to maintain relationships.
- Support people to live well.
- Support people to maintain relationships.
- Support people to maintain relationships.

**Courage**
- Make demands on everyone's business.
- Champion excellent dementia care.
- Support and support others.
- Deliver people with dementia on the care that is required.
- Be patient to care for people with dementia on the care that is required.
- Champion the importance of nursing in dementia care.
- Champion the importance of nursing in dementia care.
- Use technology to influence and inform commissioning as appropriate.

**Commitment**
- Reduce stigma around dementia.
- Champion awareness and engage others.
- Make dementia care valued.
- Champion the importance of nursing in dementia care.
- Champion the importance of nursing in dementia care.
- Use technology to influence and inform commissioning as appropriate.

Supported by:
- RCN Foundation
- NHS Health Education England
- Commissioning Board
- Royal College of Nursing
Model for nursing in dementia care

- **Dementia Specialists**
- **Dementia Skilled**
- **Dementia Awareness**

**Usual Care with Support**
- e.g. practice nurse, PHN

**Assisted Care or Care Management**
- e.g. dementia specialist nurses, Admiral Nurses
- e.g. mental health, liaison, specialist community nurses, care home, hospital, district nurses

**Intensive or Case Management**

Developing and delivering seamless services across different settings

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Fallen angels

"We'd like to sympathise with your loss, but we haven't any staff who've completed the 'Sympathising with bereaved relatives' module"
Role and contribution of dementia nurse specialists in acute care?

Key messages

- Dementia nurse specialists (DNS) have key role but needs clearly defining:
  - sufficient knowledge and skills
  - capacity to support direct patient care, provide consultancy and liaise with community services
  - knowledge and position to provide education and leadership

- 1 DNS to every 300 admissions per annum

Griffiths P; Bridges J; Sheldon S; Bartlett R; Hunt K (2013) Scoping the role of the dementia nurse specialist in acute care. University of Southampton Centre for Innovation and Leadership in Health Sciences: http://eprints.soton.ac.uk/id/eprint/349714
Next steps for nursing in dementia care?

- Educational pathways and competencies for dementia care nursing - all levels
- Supporting nursing in the community and care homes
- Calling for increase in specialist nurse roles – building evidence and supporting leaders
- Developing Community of Practice
- Transforming dementia care conference - Sharing evaluation and outcomes - 20th May 2014

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