Welcome to the webinar:

Giving a voice to people with dementia: Communication and swallowing

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#Dementia
Chair of webinar:

Derek Munn
Director of policy and public affairs at the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists

Presenters:

Alison Williams
Speech and language therapist at the Manchester Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust

Lindsey Collins
Dementia care consultant trainer at the School of Dementia Studies, University of Bradford
Alison Williams
Speech and language therapist at the Manchester Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust
Speech and language therapy provision for people with dementia (2014)

Key Message

The RCSLT believes that any person with dementia experiencing difficulties with:

- **speech/language/communication**

  or

- **eating/drinking/swallowing**

has a right to access a professional with expertise in these areas.
The role of the speech & language therapist in dementia care

- Assessment to inform differential diagnosis
- Assessment to outline needs & inform interventions
- Interventions for people with dementia and their carers
- Assessment & management of eating, drinking & swallowing difficulties
- Training
- Research & development
Risks to individuals of not providing a SLT service

- Incorrect or delayed diagnosis
- Decrease in QoL & wellbeing, social exclusion
- Barriers to accessing & communicating with other professionals & involvement in decision-making & service planning
- Increased level of dependence at an earlier stage
- Avoidable death due to choking / aspiration pneumonia / dehydration / malnutrition
Risks to organisations of not providing a SLT service

- Unnecessary admission & re-admission to hospitals or 24 hour care
- Perpetuation of inappropriate or harmful practice
- Needs of vulnerable adults not met
- Behaviour that challenges not managed effectively
Some of the benefits of providing a SLT service

- Specific analysis of language disorder to inform differential diagnosis
- Programmes to maximise & maintain language & communication function
- Supporting carers, maximising knowledge & skills, minimising depression & anxiety
- Specialist assessment of complex eating, drinking & swallowing; reducing hospital admissions & length of stay
- Management strategies for dysphagia, reducing carer stress & anxiety
- Maintenance of on-going interpersonal relationship between person with dementia & carers
- Assessment of capacity for key decisions
- Contribute to policy development, risk management etc
- Contribution to multi-disciplinary problem solving & care planning
Lindsey Collins
Dementia care consultant trainer at the School of Dementia Studies, University of Bradford
Commissioner Priorities

• Good quality early diagnosis and intervention for all
• Improved quality of care in general hospitals
• Living well with dementia in care homes
• Reduced use of antipsychotic medication

Department of Health (2010) Quality outcomes for people with dementia: building on the work of the National Dementia Strategy
What people living with dementia want to be able to say:

- I have a personal choice and control over the decisions that affect me
- I know that services are designed around me, my needs and my carer’s needs
- I have support that helps me live my life
- I have the knowledge to get what I need
- I live in an enabling and supportive environment where I feel valued and understood
- I have a sense of belonging and of being a valued part of the community
- I am confident my end of life wishes will be respected. I can expect a good death

That’s What I WANT

Outcomes derived from work of DAA; quoted in Prime Minister’s Challenge on Dementia 2020
Everybody’s Business

• SLTs as part of the multi-disciplinary team
• Communication and eating & drinking are the responsibility of the whole team
• SLT provide specialist advice, guidance, education and support
Person-centred care

- Everyone is unique
- SLT services need to reflect this
- SLTs need to work with the multi-disciplinary team to deliver person-centred services
Communication Strategy

- Used with people living with dementia on admission to hospital
- Identifying preferred ways of communicating
- Liaison with family about “how to help”
- Empowering ward staff
- Supporting people living with dementia
Mealtime Project

• Mealtimes are about more than eating and drinking
• Optimising environments
• Supporting abilities
• Specialised assessments and support
Training and Learning

- SLTs are involved in training:
  - People living with dementia
  - Family carers
  - Care workers
  - Healthcare professionals

- About:
  - Communication
  - Eating, drinking & swallowing
  - Dementia
Derek Munn
Director of policy and public affairs at the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
The reasons why...

Dementia statistics:

- 800,000 people in UK affected
- Cost is £17m p.a. & rising
- ¼ of acute hospital beds
- 1991-2011 Dementia patients in care rose from 56-70%
What is the campaign?

- To improve the quality of care received by people with dementia, their families and their carers.
- To raise awareness of the role of the SLT in dementia care.
- To demonstrate to others the role of the SLT in supporting the care of people with dementia.
- People’s needs should be met by individuals with the appropriate clinical expertise or those who have been trained by people with that expertise.
Key recommendations

- Early speech and language therapy intervention is crucial to meet the needs of people with dementia in a timely way.
- Commissioners, decision makers and service providers should ensure there is access to speech and language therapy services for people with dementia.
- There should be equal access to intervention for communication and for swallowing disorders.
- Services for people with dementia should be provided within an integrated multidisciplinary context.
- Communication and swallowing are the responsibility of the whole team – the role of the speech and language therapist is to empower and educate others as well as providing direct specialist input.
## How to get involved

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Raising awareness</strong></td>
<td>To increase professional and political understanding of the difference SLTs can make to people with dementia and their families.</td>
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<td>• Meet your local MP</td>
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<td>• Arrange for your MP to visit your dementia service (if you have one)</td>
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<td>• Develop positive news stories</td>
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<td>• Promote the campaign materials to others</td>
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<td>• Produce a central display of information</td>
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<td><strong>Raise awareness in your community</strong></td>
<td>To build appreciation amongst professionals of the role of SLT in dementia and to improve the care of people with dementia.</td>
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<td>• Meet your Trust dementia lead</td>
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<td>• Meet your local care home(s)</td>
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<td>• Run training for care home staff / hospital staff on communication and dysphagia.</td>
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Resources available

- Dementia and communication **poster** - aimed at GPs and other professionals
- Supporting people with dementia **leaflet** - for **commissioners**
- Information **leaflet** - designed for **decision makers**
- Raising awareness dementia **leaflet**

Resources and to find out more: [http://givingvoiceuk.org/dementia](http://givingvoiceuk.org/dementia)
Any Questions?
Thank you

We hope you enjoyed today’s webinar. These are open to everyone, so please forward on the details for future webinars.

Please email dementiaactionalliance@alzheimers.org.uk if you have any further questions regarding the presentation or contact the speakers directly on l.collins3@bradford.ac.uk or Alison.williams7@nhs.net

For today’s slides and past webinars please visit www.dementiaaction.org.uk/national_alliance/downloads/webinar_programme

For further webinars please check www.dementiaaction.org.uk/events