Making a Difference in Dementia: Nursing Vision and Strategy

All nurses contribute to the stage of the dementia pathway by:
• act as a link between hospital and community services.
• assess and plan care.
• deliver care and treatments.
• support a person and their family.
• promote public health messaging.
• ensure principles of safeguarding are observed.
• reduce stigma around dementia.
• work in teams to provide the right care, at the right place, for the right person.

Maximising the unique nursing contribution to high quality, compassionate care and support for people with dementia and their carers/families.

To maximise the impact of nursing services for people with dementia and their carers/families, nurses need to:
• work together with other care staff.
• share information about different care settings.
• take the lead in delivering care to patients and their carers.
• work with people to make decisions about care.

Examples of nurses who have a contribution across the pathway include public health nurses, midwives, mental health nurses, learning disability nurses, district nurses, community nurses/maritons, practice nurses, Admiral nurses, specialist nurses (including specialist dementia nurses, acute nurses, Muirmill nurses and palliative care nurses).

This is not exhaustive – the vision is intended for all nurses, irrespective of provider eg NHS, Social, Private, Voluntary or Prison Sector.

Dementia Specialists – Experts in the field of Dementia care
• Nurses with an expert level of skill and knowledge / specialist role / dementia champions in the care, treatment and support of people with dementia, their carers and families.
• Their educational and consultative role aims to improve the delivery of dementia services and delivering changes in practice.

Model for Dementia Nursing

Dementia Aware – All Nurses
All nurses have an awareness of dementia:
• Basic training;
• Making every contact count;
• Able to support dignified public health messages.

Dementia Skilled – All providing nursing to people with dementia:
• All nurses have more regular and intense contact with people with dementia, providing specific interventions, care and services.
• They have an enhanced knowledge and are skilled in dementia care.

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Intensive or Case Management

Assisted Care or Care Management

Usual Care Support

e.g. e.g. mental health nurse, dementia specialist nurse

e.g. mental health nurse, ESN, community matron, care home nurse, hospice nurse

Developing and delivering seamless services within the person’s home, community, hospital, care home and settings and between the two

Purpose
This vision was developed in recognition of the needs for much greater consumer confidence and awareness across the UK, and stated that: “Dementia is a national priority, not just a medical priority, but a priority for care, housing, employment, education, transport, leisure and housing.”

• A national dementia strategy: Equalities action plan
• The Prime Minister’s Challenge on Dementia 2012
• RHS report: Dementia: A Practical Guide for Health and Social Care Providers
• Dementia CQUIN
• NHS Institute/Dementia Action Alliance – Call to Action, The Right Care, Creating the Right Environment
• Alzheimer’s Society (2012) My Life Until The End: Dying Well with Dementia
• Royal College of Nursing: Principles of Nursing Practice
• Progress report to the Prime Minister on his challenge on dementia (November 2012)
• Department of Health (2011) National dementia strategy: Equalities action plan
• Health Education England

Supporting positive staff experience
• Deliver awareness to all support colleagues to increase competence and confidence.
• Developing dementia-friendly environments by providing excellent practice demonstration.
• More effective ways to support the right people at the right time.

Delivering through partnership and in all environments of care, nurses work collaboratively with GP and primary care (including practice nurses) to manage the interface with wider community services:
• Patients’ home;
• Hospitals;
• Care homes;
• Carers and nursing;
• Hospice services;
• Community (social care) and voluntary sector organisations services;
• Out of hours service.

Care
• Work with the person as well as their family, friends and support network to:
• Understand their needs;
• Plan and work to meet those needs;
• Promote independence and confidence.

Compassion
• Support people with dementia in line with the principles of dignity and respect;
• Work with empathy and kindness;
• Treat people as you would like to be treated;
• Show empathy and kindness;
• Ensure a person-centred approach.

Competence
• Recognise the value of your own skills and knowledge as a dementia nurse;
• Undervalue the support people can give;
• Demonstrate the complex and unpredictable nature of dementia;
• Support people with dementia in a manner that is caring, compassionate and culturally sensitive to their needs.

Communication
• Recognise everyone’s contact can be important at any stage;
• Work with people with dementia, their families and carers;
• Work to communicate with minimal frustration.

Courage
• Make dementia everyone’s business and a key priority;
• Support and support children;
• Work closely with people with dementia and their carers;
• Work to improve services.

Commitment
• Reduce stigma around dementia, reduce dementia awareness of the service.
• Commit to delivering to delivered dementia care.
• Commit to improving health and wellbeing services.
• Commit to providing best quality care.
• Commit to providing training and support.
• Commit to ensuring specialist dementia nurses are available.

End of life and bereavement support

Managing acute and complex conditions with dementia

Managing well-being and living well with dementia

Maintaining wellbeing and living well with dementia should be seen throughout the continuum

Keeping well and awareness raising / reducing social stigma

Early identification, diagnosis and support

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The Prime Minister’s Challenge on Dementia 2012

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