

Course Information Sheet

Dementia: An Introduction

Course Code	R-170607-NZ	Course Series	Dementia
Learning Pathway	Fundamental		
Course Description	Describe the common forms of dementia and the symptoms that a person may display. Acknowledge the unique needs of each person with dementia in order to deliver effective care.		
Subjects covered include	Types of dementia – Impacts of dementia – Causes of dementia – Stages of dementia – Support strategies – Person centred care		
Target Audience	All Staff		

Learning Outcomes

After viewing this course, participants should be able to:

- Define the different types and causes of dementia
- Explore the impact dementia has on the individual’s ability to perform activities of daily living
- Discover how to support and assist people with dementia participate in everyday activities in meaningful ways

Did You Know?

- What impact does dementia have on the life of an older person in a care home setting?
- What approaches can be used to respond to behaviour that may challenge staff?
- How can you and your colleagues support and assist people with dementia to participate in activities in meaningful ways?

Subject Matter Expert

Colm Cunningham provides leadership to Hammond Care Dementia Centre, he has a background in nursing and social work as well as a Masters of Science in Dementia Studies. His research interest and expertise are in environmental design, pain management, dementia and delirium, dementia and intellectual disabilities and night care.

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Key Definitions

Alzheimer's Disease	The most common cause of dementia. During the course of the disease, the chemistry and structure of the brain changes, leading to the death of brain cells.
Vascular Dementia	A form of dementia associated with problems of blood circulation to the brain. The symptoms of vascular dementia can occur either suddenly, following a stroke, or over time, through a series of small strokes.
Dementia with Lewy Bodies	This form of dementia gets its name from tiny spherical structures that develop inside nerve cells. Their presence in the brain leads to the degeneration of brain tissue.
Frontotemporal dementia (FTD)	FTD refers to a group of conditions caused by the loss of nerve cells in the frontal temporal lobes of the brain. There are two main types of FTD- Behavioural variant and Primary progressive aphasia.
Mixed dementia	Where a person lives with 2 types of dementia at the same time, this is known as mixed dementia. The most common is the co-existence of Alzheimer's and Vascular Dementia.
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)	This dementia is caused by a protein known as a prion, that is abnormal in shape and infects the brain. With this type of dementia, symptoms can progress very quickly within weeks or months.
Young onset dementia	A term used to describe a dementia diagnosis in a person under the age of 65. It's possible the younger person will experience their dementia differently and require different support compared to an older person.
Alcohol related brain impairment	This is caused by the excessive drinking of alcohol over a long period time. There are 3 main types of alcohol related brain impairment; Wernicke's encephalopathy, Korsakoff's syndrome and Alcoholic dementia.

Resources to Support Your Learning

[Alzheimer's New Zealand](#)

Active Learning Hours

This course and the accompanying assessment may require up to three hours of active learning. It is the learner's responsibility to calculate how many hours of active learning have taken place. The course viewed must be relevant to the care worker or nurse's context of practice for it to be considered continuing professional development. Certificates are available from your coordinator.

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