



Course Information

Dementia: End Stage of Life

Course Code: R-160127-NZ Course Series: Dementia

Learning Pathway: Developing



Course Aim: Recognise and respond to the unique challenges that may be encountered when caring for a person with end stage dementia.

Target Audience: New Care Staff, Experienced Care Staff, Registered Nurses, Enrolled Nurses, Management, Admin Staff

Learning Outcomes:

After viewing this course participants should be able to:

- Discuss what is meant by the end stage of life
 - Recognise the particular challenges associated with providing care at the end stage of life for people with dementia
 - Implement practical strategies to address these challenges ensuring dignity and choice during the end stage of life
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Subject Matter Expert:

Esther Ruth Beck was formerly a staff nurse on acute medical wards in Whitabbey Hospital and the Royal Victoria Hospital, as well as a former manager of a 65 bed care home. She has completed her Specialist Nursing Practice in Palliative Care and her Specialist Nursing Practice in Dementia Care and is currently undertaking her PhD in End of Life Care for People with Dementia at the University of Ulster. She is a Member of the European Academy of Nursing Scientists and a Member of the Irish Association of Palliative Care.

Think About:

Consider the following questions:

- How many people with dementia in your care home have completed advance care plans?
 - What are the subtle signs of communication that can be observed in someone dying with advanced dementia?
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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.



Key definitions

<p>Advance Care Plan</p>	<p>An advance care plan should be completed by a dying person as early as possible. It can outline their wishes and preferences as well as any advance decisions or statements about their spiritual, emotional and medical care or any other factors affecting the kind of death they would wish to experience. This can then be used as a tool if they are no longer able to communicate these wishes at the end stage of life</p>
<p>Advance Care Directive</p>	<p>This is a written document that records the medical treatment wishes of a person, which can then be used if a person is unable to speak for themselves due to illness or injury. The document may also appoint a substitute decision maker and include non-medical wishes for end of life such as spiritual care.</p> <p>http://advancecareplanning.org.au/frequently-asked-questions/</p>
<p>Abbey Pain Scale</p>	<p>A tool for the measurement of pain in people with dementia who cannot verbalise</p>
<p>Dysphagia</p>	<p>Difficulty in swallowing</p>



Resources to support your learning

Alzheimer's New Zealand End of Life Care:

<http://www.alzheimers.org.nz/getattachment/About-Dementia/Booklets-and-fact-sheets/Booklet-6-The-later-stages-and-end-of-life-care.pdf/>

Dying Matters: <http://www.dyingmatters.org/>

SCIE - End of life care for people with dementia living in care homes:

<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/briefings/files/briefing40.pdf>

DISCLAIMER:

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