



Course Information

Dementia: Understanding and Responding to BPSD

Course Code: R-150513-NZ Course Series: Dementia

Learning Pathway: Developing



Course Aim: Explore the reasons why behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia are often challenging for staff. Develop solutions that will ensure safety for all.

Target Audience: New Care Staff, Experienced Care Staff, Registered Nurses

Learning Outcomes:

After viewing this course participants should be able to:

- Identify behaviours that may challenge staff that are commonly associated with dementia
 - Explore the reasons for behaviours that may challenge staff
 - Implement short term solutions to respond to episodes of behaviour that ensure safety for all
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Subject Matter Expert:

Pamela Davis has over 30 years of experience working with people living with dementia, in residential care, in the community, and through local Commonwealth government positions. She currently specialises in dementia education for family carers, staff in residential aged care facilities, community workers and volunteers. Her role also focuses on raising community awareness about dementia and its impact. Pamela is a Dementia Educator at Alzheimer's Australia for NSW.

Think About:

Consider the following questions:

- What are some of the behaviours of people living with dementia that may challenge you?
 - What are the causes of these behaviours?
 - How best can you recognise and respond to these behaviours?
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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

BPSD	Behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia
Disinhibition	Behaviour that is considered inappropriate according to accepted to social norms and values
Reminiscence	The act of reviewing past events of a person’s life. In dementia care it is used to help distract a person’s attention from behaviours such as walking about, aggression, disinhibition and others
Walking about	When a person living dementia walks around continuously as if they have no purpose
Validation	In dementia care validation therapy means entering the world of a person living with dementia and accepting their reality



Resources to support your learning

Alzheimer’s New Zealand:
<http://www.alzheimers.org.nz/>

Alzheimer’s New Zealand Understanding Behaviours:
<http://www.alzheimers.org.nz/getmedia/9048f9a7-eb22-4722-84db-9188b71469a7/Understanding-behaviours.pdf.aspx>

Agewell – Memory Loss and Dementia:
http://www.agewell.org.nz/health_memory_loss_dementia.html

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