

Assessing the Impact of an RMN Supporting Healthcare Professionals in Dementia Care in Acute Settings

Monika Rybacka, Mental Health Nursing

OxIMNAHR, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, United Kingdom

Purpose:

People with dementia are more likely to experience unplanned admissions to hospital, which have negative consequences for them, and their carers (Dewing et al. 2016). Healthcare professionals' are best placed to address and change these outcomes, however poor knowledge and a lack of policies, guidance and resources impacts negatively on their attitudes and may result in a lack of person-centred and empathic care (Calnan et al. 2013; Jonas-Simpson et al. 2012)

Methods:

The implementation of a new role to support patients with dementia in the acute hospital setting: a registered mental health nurse as a Quality Improvement and Nurse Educator in Dementia. The role involved policy writing, pathway and local strategy planning, including the writing of the Trust Dementia Strategy, care plan development and formal and informal teaching on dementia.

Results:

Quantitative results have been extracted from the completion of dementia education and training and cognitive screening. Dementia awareness was completed by staff, and increased from 11.7 % in 2014/15 to 93.38% in 2015/16. The dementia training knowledge package was completed by staff increased from 0.06% in 2014/15 to 77.71% in 2015/16. During 2014/15 the teaching was completed via an online e-learning tool, however in 2014/15 a taught classroom package was developed and the dementia awareness was also presented for new staff on Trust induction. Cognitive screening across the acute hospital increased by 22.44% to 67.51% from October 2015 until November 2016.

The role supported the growth and development of a dementia champion network, the developed previous initiatives further such as the Dementia Café and support staff within wards to design and implement projects to improve patient experience.

Conclusion:

This fixed-term post demonstrated that a role specialising in dementia, such as the Quality Improvement Nurse Educator in Dementia could provide support, advice and teaching in an acute hospital setting, and thereby alongside other dementia initiatives improve the experience of staff, patients with dementia and their carers during an acute hospital stay.

The implementation of this unique role needs further exploration and evaluation, as current a consistency of training and specialist dementia roles restricts recommendations from a robust evidence-base (Brooke and Ojo 2017).

Title:

Assessing the Impact of an RMN Supporting Healthcare Professionals in Dementia Care in Acute Settings

Keywords:

dementia, education and expertise

References:

Brooke, J.M., Ojo, O. (2017) Elements of a sustainable, competent and empathetic workforce to support patients with dementia during an acute hospital stay: A comprehensive literature review. *The International Journal of Health Planning and Management* 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hpm.2448>

Calnan M, Tadd W, Calnan S, Hillman A, Read S, Bayer A. 'I often worry about the older person being in that system': exploring the key influences on the provision of dignified care for older people in acute hospitals. *Ageing Soc* 2013;33:465-485. doi: 131.251.254.50.

Dewing J, Dijk S. What is the current state of care for older people with dementia in hospital? A literature review. *Dementia* 2016;15(1):106-24. doi: 10.1177/1471301213520172.

Jonas-Simpson C, Mitchell GJ, Carson J, Whyte C, Dupuis S, Gillies J. Phenomenological shifts for healthcare professionals after experiencing a research-based drama on living with dementia. *J Adv Nurs* 2012;68(9):1944-1955. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2648.2011.05877.x.

Abstract Summary:

The focus of this research is the use of expertise in Dementia Care. This work looks particularly at a Quality Improvement role to improve innovations, support staff and develop education.

Content Outline:

Introduction

The introduction will include:

- dementia care in acute hospitals
- the use of an expert role

Body

- discuss how the expert role is implemented
- review the impact on patient care
- review the benefits to staff within acute settings

- review the packages of education and other support methods for staff

Conclusion

- relevance for future practice
- relevance for future research

First Primary Presenting Author

Primary Presenting Author

Monika Rybacka, Mental Health Nursing
Oxford Brookes University
OxIMNAHR
Honorary Visiting Academic
Oxford
United Kingdom

Professional Experience: RMN since 2009. Previous roles include Primary Care Dementia Facilitator, Quality Improvement Nurse for Dementia and Operational CMHT Manager. I am also a visiting academic at Oxford Brookes and a Clinical Doctorate Student at Stirling University

Author Summary: I have an interest in research across dementia care. I am a member of the International Dementia Culture Collaborative. I am currently studying at Stirling University to complete my Clinical Doctorate in Nursing