



Healthcare
Improvement
Scotland

ihub

Focus on
Dementia
update

Focus on dementia work in hospitals

Focus on Dementia: a national improvement programme

Focus on Dementia is a national improvement programme for dementia in Scotland, based within Healthcare Improvement Scotland's Improvement Hub (ihub). We work in partnership with national organisations, health and social care partnerships, people with dementia and carers to improve quality of care and support. All of this work is supporting the implementation of Scotland's 2017-2020 dementia strategy and informing future policy and practice.

Scotland's National Dementia Strategy

Scotland's third dementia strategy, published in 2017, builds on the nation's progress over the last 10 years in improving services and outcomes for people with dementia, their families and carers.

Commitment 7 of this strategy focuses on supporting improvements in hospitals, or acute care, across Scotland.

"We will continue to implement national action plans to improve services for people with dementia in acute care and specialist NHS care, strengthening links with activity on delayed discharge, avoidable admissions and inappropriately long stays in hospital."¹



Supporting improvements in acute care

We are focusing on supporting improvements in acute care so that when people with dementia go into hospital, their stay is a short, positive experience so they can return home or to a homely setting, enabling them to live well for longer.

People with dementia over the age of 65 occupy an estimated 25% of hospital beds.

People with dementia are more likely to be admitted to hospital than people without dementia due to co-existing conditions and/or secondary complications of dementia, such as falls, fractures and infections. When admitted to hospital, they tend to have a longer length of stay, have adverse outcomes such as falls, pressure ulcers and infections and are more likely to be discharged to a care home.²

- Alzheimer's Society

Case study

We have been working in collaboration with NHS Grampian to understand what improves dementia care within acute general hospitals. Working together has identified several key learning points and include:

- staff delivering care in hospitals should have dementia-specific training and skills
- appointing dementia champions and developing dementia leadership amongst hospital staff is key, and
- embedding quality improvement as part of day-to-day practice is critical.

The findings from this work have been published in a report, available on the ihub website:

<https://ihub.scot/media/2298/20170523-fod-grampian-report-1-0-web.pdf>

The report has also been distributed widely across Scotland, receiving positive feedback about how it has increased knowledge and may contribute to positive experience and outcomes for people living with dementia.

For more information on the work of Focus on Dementia, please visit our webpages www.ihub.scot/focus-on-dementia

or follow us on twitter

 [@FocusOnDementia](https://twitter.com/FocusOnDementia)

References

1. Alzheimer Scotland, COSLA and Scottish Government. Scotland's National Dementia Strategy 2017-2020. 2017 [cited 2018 May 14]; Available from <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00521773.pdf>
2. Alzheimer Society. Counting the Cost: Caring for people with dementia on Hospital wards. 2009 [cited 2018 May 30]; Available from: https://www.ahsw.org.uk/userfiles/Arts%20&%20Dementia%20files/Counting_the_cost_report.pdf

Events



Workshop
Focus on Dementia
Conference
Thursday 10 May 2017

Poster presentation at
Dementia Champions
Graduation Event
Wednesday 15 March 2017

Oral presentation at
Alzheimer Europe Conference
2-4 October 2017

Keynote presentation
at Newcastle Trust
Dementia Conference
Thursday 6 February 2018

Poster presentation at
National Conference
and Dementia Champion
Graduation
Wednesday 14 March 2018

Oral presentation at
the Nordic Countries
Dementia Seminar
Thursday 10 April 2018

Poster presentation at
Scottish Caring and
Dementia Congress
Wednesday 18 April 2018

Poster presentation at
NHSScotland 2018 Event
18-19 June 2018