

UNDERSTANDING THE TRANSITIONING OF CARE AFFECTED BY ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

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INTRODUCTION

Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease impacts behaviors of the individual. These individuals' gradually lose abilities that have acquired over a lifetime and experience a wide range of behavioral problems. The purpose of this poster is to explore problems associated with Alzheimer's Disease and other related disorders, and the significance of the transition period between before and after the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease and the effects of such transition on caregivers. By reviewing the literature on these issues, I hope to help caregivers understand the diagnosis and issues associated with the diagnosis and organize better care plans. Based on research, I have designed a program that extends on long term care facilities methods and policies to help both patient and caregiver maintain their own psychological well-being.

EFFECTS OF DIAGNOSIS

MENTAL STATUS BEFORE AND PROGRESSION OF DIAGNOSIS

- Loss of mental and cognitive function
 - Impaired judgment
 - Attention
 - Abstract thinking
 - Ability to govern emotions
- SIB score shows decline in cognitive functioning (Schwan et al., 2010)
 - The **Severe Impairment Battery (SIB)** focuses on gathering performance-based data using low-level tasks that take into account the specific behavioral and cognitive deficits associated with severe dementia.

BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS

- Resistiveness to care
 - Verbal and physical aggression that disrupts or complicates personal care
 - Emotional tone associated with RTC (Williams et al., 2011)
- Increase psychiatric symptoms
- Aggression/Combateness
- Agitation
- Wandering
- Withdrawal/outbursts

IMPACT OF DIAGNOSIS ON FAMILY MEMBERS

- **Spouse**
 - Experience more emotional and challenges (Byrne et al., 2010)
 - Less able to respond to disruptive behaviors, problem solving, and conflicts (Ducharme et al., 2011)
- **Adult Children/other family members**
 - Main Caregiver is female figure of family
 - Compared to men, women caregivers have more conflicts and psychological stress (Ducharme et al., 2011)
 - Isolation
 - Anger towards other family members
 - Anxiety
 - Exhaustion and stress of demands (Ritchie et al., 2011)

EFFECTS OF DIAGNOSIS CONTINUED...

IMPACT OF DIAGNOSIS ON PROFESSIONAL CAREGIVERS

- Experience similar tolls that family members experience
- Demands for knowledge about each resident, behavior, life, and family
- Communication (verbal and nonverbal) with patient of the facility

TRANSFER ISSUE IN LONG TERM CARE FACILITY

- Challenges faced with family (Kelsey et al., 2009)
 - Denial
 - Resistance
 - Finances
- Understanding reason for transfers within facility
 - Wandering or elopement
 - Safety issues
 - Behavioral problems
 - Increased care needs

THE PROGRAM

I designed a program that would extend in any long term care facility policies, and potentially help caregivers and patients maintain their psychological well-being. These are the key features:

EVALUATE COGNITIVE FUNCTION

- locating cognitive function ensures a direct care plan associated with more accurate needs for the patient
 - Mini-Mental State Exam
 - Obtain SIB score
 - The *SIB* (Severe Impairment Battery) is a scale that assesses cognitive functioning.
 - A score of 70 indicates decline in cognitive and function

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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THE PROGRAM CONTINUED...

COMMUNICATION TRAINING INVOLVING EMPHASIS ON EMOTIONAL TONE

- Emotional Tone
 - Caring and respect emotional tone
 - Controlling emotional tone
- Positive Communication

EDUCATION OF TECHNIQUES

- Medication
 - Administering PRN (as needed medication not taken on a normal basis)
- Keep up-to date with research
- Awareness on the effects of other techniques besides medication that can help stop a disturbing behavior

RELOCATION POLICIES

- In many long term care facilities, relocation policies are not introduced or communicated to family effectively
 - Communication between family member before and during admission
 - Relocation policies clearly defined and routinely reviewed

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