



Dementia Training for Care Homes

Resource Pack



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Introduction

Health Innovation Network (HIN) is the Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) for South London, one of the 15 AHSNs across England. HIN is a membership organisation connecting academics, NHS commissioners and providers, local authorities, patients and industry in order to accelerate the spread and adoption of evidence based innovations and best practice. HIN, along with the other AHSNs, has three core objectives:

- 1. Improve lives**
- 2. Save money; and**
- 3. Drive economic growth**

HIN has a number of clinical priorities, one of which is Healthy Ageing, including a focus on dementia.

In line with the Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia 2020, over the last few years HIN has worked with partners to develop training resources to improve dementia awareness, diagnosis and promote dementia research. This guide consists of three training modules covering these domains for use in residential and nursing homes.



Background

The *Prime Minister's Challenge on Dementia 2020* outlines a need for the promotion of awareness and understanding of dementia in Britain and global action on dementia. The report calls for improved public awareness and for all NHS staff to receive training appropriate to their role by 2020, as well as:

- Equal access to diagnosis of dementia as for other conditions
- Meaningful care and support for patients and carers; and
- Increased funding for and accessibility to research.

Over the last three years the Health Innovation Network (HIN) has been working with partners to develop dementia training materials for dementia trainers in care homes.

In 2014/15, HIN worked with Guys and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust to spread and adopt Barbara's story to care homes with the aim of improving dementia awareness. Following this in 2015, HIN worked with care homes to co-design DeAR-GP, a dementia case finding tool to be used by care workers

in care homes. In 2016, the Join Dementia Research module was designed and developed by the UCL Partners and HIN supported by Dementia London Clinical Network. Together the three modules provide a complementary, patient-centred approach to dementia training.

This free guide is a collation of these resources and aims to raise awareness of dementia in care home settings. The training is divided into three modules covering innovations including:

- Module 1: Dementia Awareness using Barbara's Story
- Module 2: Detecting dementia using DeAR-GP
- Module 3: Signing up to research with Join Dementia Research (JDR).

To deliver all three modules will take approximately up to three hours. Trainers may prefer to deliver modules individually or pair as relevant.



Module 1: Barbara's Story



In 2012 Guys and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust developed Barbara's Story, an award-winning training programme to raise awareness of dementia amongst staff in acute settings. This resource follows the journey of a woman called Barbara through her healthcare journey as her dementia gradually advances.

An evaluation by London Southbank University in 2013 indicated that Barbara's Story:

- Raised awareness of dementia and prompted reflection in practice amongst care staff; and
- Changed the culture within organisations

In 2015, Health Innovation Network (HIN) undertook a project to determine whether 'Barbara's Story' was suitable for use in care homes. Twenty-nine homes in south London participated in the project and the project evaluation concluded that it is a valuable dementia awareness resource suitable for use in care home settings and covers over 25% of the competencies required for care home staff to obtain their Care Certificate (a competency based set of skills developed for care home

staff by Skills for Care, Health Education England and Skills for Health).

This module covers Barbara's Story (Episode 1) followed by a facilitated discussion and reflective learning.

Lesson Plan

Trainer Script

Video: Episode 1

Key Messages

Alzheimer's Society Communication Factsheet

Training Evaluation

Certificate of Attendance



Module 2: DeAR-GP



In recognition of the low diagnosis rates in residential and nursing homes HIN worked with three care homes to co-design the Dementia Assessment Referral to GP (DeAR-GP). DeAR-GP supports care workers in care home settings to identify people who are showing signs of dementia and refer them to their GP for review. It is a simple paper based case-finding tool which incorporates a set of observations along with the 4-item Abbreviated Mental Test (AMT-4) cognitive scale to be completed by the care worker. A diagnosis of dementia facilitates access to information and support and depending on the type and stage of dementia it also provides the opportunity for consideration of specific treatments or interventions which may be available. Once completed the DeAR-GP acts as a communication aide between care workers and GPs.

Supported by the Alzheimer's Society, since its launch there has been uptake nationally and it is recognised as a 'low cost, high impact intervention' (NHS England, 2016). DeAR-GP also supports NICE quality statement 1 'Dementia: support in health and social care' and quality statement 2 'People with suspected dementia

are referred to a memory assessment service specializing in the diagnosis and initial management of dementia' (NICE, 2017). Dear-GP now features on [NICE Shared Learning Database](#) and [AHSN Atlas of Solutions](#).

Training on the use of the DeAR-GP tool will cover the importance of diagnosing, the role of the care worker in detecting dementia and guidance on how to use the DeAR-GP tool. Click the boxes below to access the full project report and user guide (including training resources).

[Project Report](#)

[User Guide](#)



Module 3: Join Dementia Research



Join Dementia Research (JDR) was one of the innovations on the NHS Innovation Accelerator supported by UCL Partners in 2016. JDR is a national service that aims to accelerate the pace of dementia research by allowing people to register their interest in order to be matched to suitable studies. The training module covers the importance of research and guides staff, residents and their families to sign up the service. The slide set and lesson guide can be found by clicking the box below.

[Slide Set](#)

[Lesson Guide](#)

