

DeAR-GP

User Guide



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Download our **Dementia Assessment Referral to GP Form** 

Foreword

Research has shown that between **75%** and **89%** of care home residents **have dementia**, and that many of these residents are **undiagnosed** (Lithgow, Jackson, & Browne, 2012; Stewart et al., 2014).

A dementia diagnosis will aid the understanding of care workers, family members and friends, leading to better support of the person with dementia. It can lead to more appropriate care and support, may give the person with dementia the opportunity to plan for the future and depending on the type and stage of dementia specific treatments or interventions may be available.

Co-designed by the Health Innovation Network, the **Dementia Assessment Referral to GP** tool (DeAR-GP) supports care workers to identify people who are

showing signs of dementia and refer them to their GP or another healthcare professional for review. Once completed, DeAR-GP acts as a communication aide between care workers and GPs.

This user guide provides a step-by-step process of how to implement DeAR-GP in care homes in your local area. Drawing on experience gained in a small scale pilot, a number of resources and step-by-step guides are provided.

We thank you for your interest and support in further evaluation of DeAR-GP.

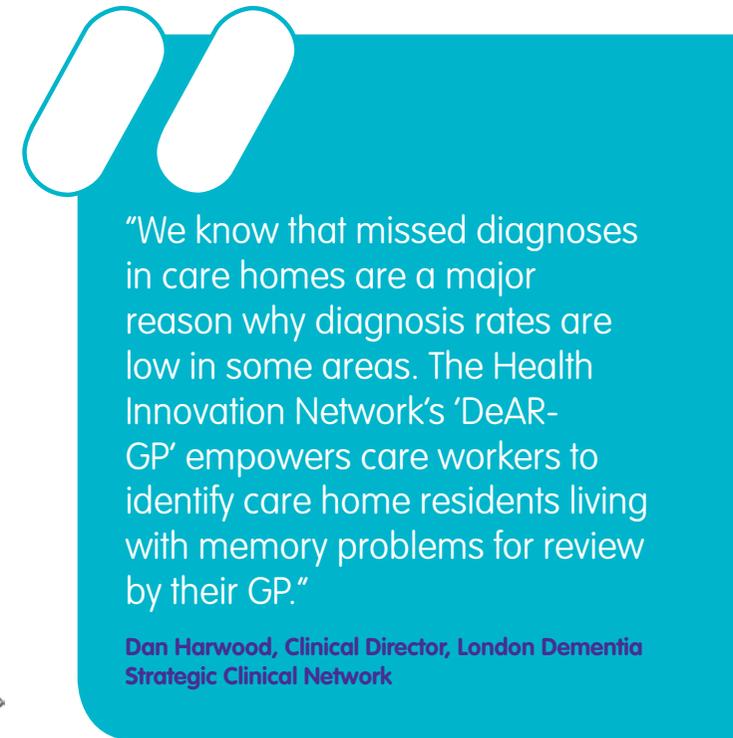


Dr Hugo de Waal
Clinical Director



Aileen Jackson
Associate Clinical
Director

**Dementia programme,
Health Innovation Network**
September 2015



“We know that missed diagnoses in care homes are a major reason why diagnosis rates are low in some areas. The Health Innovation Network’s ‘DeAR-GP’ empowers care workers to identify care home residents living with memory problems for review by their GP.”

Dan Harwood, Clinical Director, London Dementia Strategic Clinical Network



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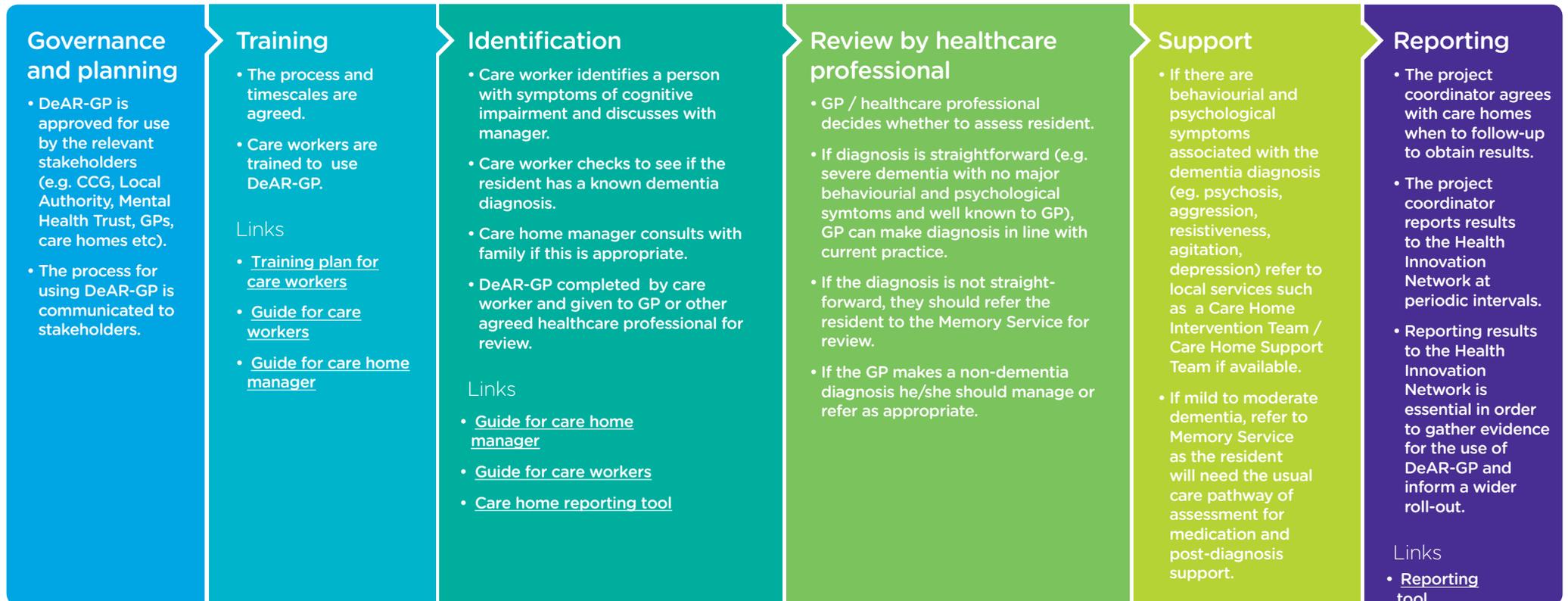
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✓ **The use of DeAR-GP has been approved by the appropriate stakeholders. These may include:**

- » The Clinical Commissioning Group
- » The Local authority Adult Social Care department
- » Local GPs
- » The Mental Health Trust
- » Care homes.

✓ **The process has been agreed with and communicated to relevant stakeholders**

- » It has been agreed with care homes who will provide training
- » It has been agreed how DeAR-GP will be distributed to homes
- » The process for care workers to refer to GPs or other healthcare professionals is established
- » GPs and/or other healthcare professionals such as specialist memory nurses know about the project and will review residents identified.



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- ✓ **You have engaged with the care homes**
 - » A meeting has been arranged with the care home manager ([link to Care Home Managers guidance](#)). A date for training care workers has been arranged ([link to training for care workers, and care workers guidance](#))
 - » A date has been agreed with the home manager to check on progress
 - » A date has been agreed with the care home manager to collect the completed DeAR-GP forms ([link to care home reporting tool](#))
- ✓ **GPs and/or other healthcare professionals have been identified to review completed DeAR-GP forms**
 - » The method of referral from care home to GP / healthcare professional is agreed and communicated
 - » The GP / healthcare professional is aware of their options following an assessment
- ✓ **Healthcare professionals are aware that any diagnosis must be reported to the relatives and care home if the patient does not have capacity**
- ✓ **Post-diagnostic support options are explained**
 - » Care homes can be offered additional support
 - » Relatives may wish to speak to a local dementia adviser (if available) and have been provided with the contact details of local services
- ✓ **The outcome of the referral has been recorded and reported to the Health Innovation Network ([link to reporting tool](#))**

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Evaluation and data sharing

The DeAR-GP tool has been developed by the South London Health Innovation Network and tested in three care homes in south London.

The results were very positive and suggested that the tool is likely to be a good indicator of a dementia diagnosis. We recognise that the test was done on a small scale, and we are keen to obtain further information about how it is being used to support a more robust evaluation.

Although the DeAR-GP tool is being provided at no charge, **a condition of its use is that data is reported back to the Health Innovation Network during 2015/16.**



To assist with this, a reporting tool has been included in this user guide, [available here](#).



Please email your results to the **Health Innovation Network** on a quarterly basis, clearly labelling the email 'DeAR-GP results'.

As a minimum dataset, we ask that you tell us:



Your location (borough or CCG)



Number of care homes involved



Number of DeAR-GP forms completed



Number of residents followed up by a GP or other Healthcare professional



Number of residents subsequently diagnosed with dementia

If you are able to provide any other supporting information, such as feedback from care workers/GPs etc. please do so.

If you would like to discuss anything regarding evaluation or data collection please email the Health Innovation Network on by [clicking here](#).

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Guide for care workers



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Reporting tool



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Care home reporting tool



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Training plan for care workers



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Dementia case-finding tool for care workers final report



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