

National Dementia Education Programme

Early Identification of Memory Problems in the Older Person e learning Programme

Introduction

This short online course introduces participants to the experience of those with memory problems. The programme adopts a person-centred approach to care, highlighting the need to plan care with the maximum possible participation of the person with memory problems and his or her significant others. This is achieved by emphasising that assessment and care should be aimed at identifying a person's strengths and capacities to maintain independence and self-determination for as long as possible.

The programme provides an excellent introduction to a range of conditions that affect memory, including Alzheimer's Dementia, Lewy-body Dementia, Vascular Dementia and Delirium. A "narrative" style has been adopted, presenting case-examples and providing online assessment practice for participants. This is in keeping with current educational thinking on narrative or story-based learning in many clinical education programmes around the world.

Aim

To equip health care professionals with the skills to identify memory problems, to differentiate between different types of dementia and delirium and to look at memory problems within a broader social and personal context, thus mobilising therapeutic help earlier and maximising outcome potential.

Learning Outcomes

This learning resource has been developed to:

- Promote clinical practice that is comprehensive, systematic, safe and always in the best interests of the individual and their carers.
- Reflect the most current empirical evidence on screening and assessment in dementia care.
- Equip health care professionals with the skills necessary for the early identification of memory problems.
- Help health care professionals distinguish between Dementia, a chronic condition, and Delirium, an acute and sometimes life-threatening condition.

Target Audience

The programme will also be relevant for other health care professionals, including all health and social care professionals who have contact with people with memory problems

Programme Delivery

Students can access the programme online through the HSE land portal. Log onto www.hseland.ie if you have not registered before you will be asked to do this.

When you have successfully logged in, enter the term early, into the search box which is visible on the mylearning section. You will be presented with the option to take the relevant programme.

Programme duration is approximately one hour.

Programme Syllabus

- What is dementia?
- Recognising dementia.
- Assessment of memory problems.
- Benefits /Disadvantages of having an assessment.
- Importance of early identification.
- Life with dementia from the perspective of a person with dementia.
- Delirium and dementia differences.
- Case study; initial assessment in the home with a person who has early concerns about memory.
- Skills Lab (scenario-based learning), interactive online assessment. Here the learner chooses how to progress the assessment and is presented with real-time consequences.
- Introduction to a short cognitive screen.
- Interactive demonstration of the Qmci Screen. Learners must identify the screens components to aid in establishing a good working knowledge of the screen.
- Building on knowledge gained in the previous unit, learners are asked to complete scoring of an assessment using an interactive assessment on-screen.
- Examples on how to carry out an assessment in the home setting and in an acute setting.
- Nursing assessment of early Mild Cognitive Impairment. In this interactive assessment, learners are provided with the opportunity to complete the assessment of a person with signs of early memory problems. When complete, learners can compare their findings with the correct assessment result. This feature allows for the development of clinical skills online and in advance of actual patient care.
- Memory problems and Intellectual Disability.
- Summation, focussing on the importance of enhancing positive coping skills of people with memory problems.

Method of Assessment

On-line self assessment

Certification

A certificate is available on completion of programme and successful completion of assessment.