



COLLEGE CENTRE FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT



September 2009 / Issue 1

Thank you for registering your hospital to take part in the National Audit of Dementia.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you, the audit lead, with additional information about the audit, so you are prepared for roll out in **January 2010**.

We have had a successful recruitment of trust participation for the audit and will be confirming which hospitals have been selected for the enhanced audit by **30 September 2009**.

Piloting of audit tools is underway. The deadline for data collection from the pilot is **23 October 2009**. We will then amend the audit tools ready for the national audit early next year.

Contents

Background to the audit	1
The audit structure and modules	2
Data entry	2
Data reporting	2
Who the audit will involve	3
Timeline of the audit	4
Contacting the project team	4

Background to the audit

Admission to a general hospital can be a difficult and distressing event for people with dementia and is often associated with a worsening in their condition.

Improved care for people with dementia in general hospitals is a key objective of the National Dementia Strategy in England and a main domain for the National Dementia Plan for Wales.

This national audit will help to identify structures, clinical practice and standards affecting people with dementia. It aims to improve services by measuring performance against standards, which presents a baseline for future re-audit.

The project is a collaboration between:

- **the Royal College of Psychiatrists;**
- **the British Geriatrics Society;**
- **the Royal College of Nursing;**
- **the Royal College of Physicians of London;**
- **the Royal College of General Practitioners;**
- **the Alzheimer's Society.**

The Audit Structure and Modules

THE CORE AUDIT

Will involve all general acute hospitals.

This consists of:

a hospital organisational checklist

Structures, policies, care processes and key staff that impact on service planning and provision for people with dementia

a casenote audit

Records of up to 40 patients with a diagnosis or current history of dementia, audited against a checklist of standards that relate to their admission, assessment, care planning/delivery, and discharge.

THE ENHANCED AUDIT

Will be limited to between 50 and 75 general hospitals.

This consists of:

a ward organisational audit

Concerning staffing, support and governance at a ward level

a ward environmental audit

Aspects of the ward physical environment known to impact on people with dementia

staff questionnaires

Feedback from ward staff about awareness of dementia and about support offered to patients with dementia on their ward

carer/patient questionnaire

Evaluates carers' experience of the support they have received from ward staff and patients' overall perception of the quality of care on the ward

Data Entry

All data will be completed and returned online with the exception of the carer/patient questionnaire and observation modules.

We will be sending the audit leads usernames and passwords in **December 2009** so that audit tools can be accessed online.

Data Reporting

Core Audit: participants will receive a report with national and site level data in the summer of 2010.

Enhanced Audit: participants will receive reports with national and (where relevant) site level data for each component of the audit in the summer of 2010.

National Report: aggregated results of the core and enhanced audits will be presented in an overall National Report in December 2011.

Who the audit will involve

A variety of staff will be required to support the data collection associated with the various component of the audit, as indicated in the table below.

Core Audit	
Organisational Audit	Audit lead, clinical audit departments, junior doctors
Casenote Audit	Audit lead, clinical audit departments, junior doctors
Enhanced Audit	
Ward Organisational Audit	Ward sister/ manager or equivalent
Environmental Audit	One member of ward staff, i.e. sister, manager or deputy, One representative from Trust Executive Board or Clinical Governance committee One lay person i.e. patient/ carer representative or advocate
Staff Questionnaires	All ward staff including: doctors; nurses; healthcare assistants; consultants; ward clerks; administrators; and any other disciplines with regular input to ward – e.g. liaison psychiatry services; occupational therapy; physiotherapy
Patient Questionnaires	Ward staff to distribute questionnaires to patients at point of discharge from ward.
Carer Questionnaires	Ward staff to distribute questionnaires to carers
Observation (of care interactions)	Two staff members 2 per ward to attend one day training session and to carry out structured observations

Timeline of the audit

Tool	Start date	Deadline for data entry
Core Audit		
Organisational Audit	11 January 2010	15 February 2010
Casenote Audit	18 January 2010	21 May 2010
Enhanced Audit		
Environmental Audit	1 February 2010	1 April 2010
Ward Organisational Audit	1 February 2010	1 April 2010
Carer/patient questionnaire	1 February 2010	28 May 2010
Staff questionnaire	1 February 2010	28 May 2010
Observation training	From July 2010	N/A
Observation module	From August 2010	December 2010

For more information on the National Audit of Dementia, please visit our website:

www.nationalauditofdementia.org.uk

The bibliography of the audit tools can be downloaded from our website.

Contacting the project team...

By post:

National Audit of Dementia Project team,
Royal College of Psychiatrists' Centre for
Quality Improvement,
4th Floor, Standon House,
Mansell Street,
London,
E1 8AA.

By email:

chood@cru.rcpsych.ac.uk
agandesha@cru.rcpsych.ac.uk

By telephone:

02079774976 / 02079774975