Transforming dementia care for hospitals
RCN Development programme: March 2013- March 2014
Guidance for Applicants

Overview

The RCN Foundation is funding a new development programme for nursing staff working in general hospital settings, to support them in delivering improvements in patient and carer related outcomes for dementia care.

This programme is based on the outcomes of the RCN project *Dignity in dementia; improving care in general hospital settings* project in 2011 and will use the principles set out in the *Commitment to the care of people with dementia in hospital settings*.

SPACE – top five ingredients to support good dementia care

1. Staff who are skilled and have time to care.
2. Partnership working with carers.
3. Assessment and early identification of dementia.
4. Care plans which are person centred and individualised.
5. Environments that are dementia-friendly.

It will align to national dementia strategies and plans and support the delivery of national initiatives including the NHS Outcomes Framework, National Dementia CQUIN, Scotland Dementia Standards, 1000 Lives Plus (Wales) and the Northern Ireland Regional Dementia Strategy.

The programme will also support nursing staff to deliver quality improvements using the RCN Principles of Nursing Practice.

Programme outline

The programme will be supported by the RCN Institute for Learning and development, RCN dementia project lead and carer/patient representatives; and will be supplemented by invited speakers who will share examples of best practice and innovation.

The programme will support key nursing staff working in and/or into general hospitals to:

- Develop skills and knowledge to support implementation of good practice in the care of people with dementia and their families within an acute setting
- Understand the role of carers, families and friends and principles of engagement in developing a strategic approach to partnership working
• Understand the national context and guidance supporting improvements in dementia care in hospitals and how this informs and relates to local developments

• Develop local action plans to identify key changes, including stakeholder engagement

• Apply quality improvement initiative approaches to support and deliver and evaluate local action plans

• Build on clinical leadership skills to deliver and facilitate the development of practice

• Evaluate the impact of improvements within their wards/setting using an outcomes based approach focusing on patient/carer experience.

The programme will be supported by a variety of tools and resources including:

• RCN dementia resources supporting the **Commitment to care** including film: [Supporting good dementia care](http://www.supportinggooddementia.org.uk) and a practical how to guide ‘**Dementia: Commitment to the Care of People with Dementia in Hospital Settings**’

• Carer engagement tool based on the **Triangle of Care** framework which offers a framework to promote better collaboration and partnership as key to improving the experience of care in acute care: [http://static.carers.org/files/caretriangle-web-5250.pdf](http://static.carers.org/files/caretriangle-web-5250.pdf)

This is currently being developed in collaboration with Carers Trust and Uniting Carers, Dementia UK

• **RCN Principles of Nursing Practice:** [http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/practice/principles/the_principles](http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/practice/principles/the_principles)

• Local guidance and resources to assess and evaluate quality of care and patient/carer related outcomes including assessment and identification, patient/carer satisfaction, falls, admission and discharge, improved staff knowledge, use of antipsychotics etc

• NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement; self assessment tool for dementia friendly hospitals (in development)

(Please note this is not exhaustive and other tools may be used as the programme develops)

**Participants**

Applications will be invited to apply from across the UK and will judged on the basis on the quality of their application, demonstration of willingness to commit to the programme and principles of engagement/collaboration with patients and carers.

Applicants will be required to submit an initial action plan based on areas of improvement. Applicants will also need to demonstrate support from their Trust Board including the Director of Nursing.
Spaces will be available for participants from a possible 8 

**general hospital sites** with places for 3 key clinical leads with responsibility for dementia care within the organisation. These may include nurse consultants, ward sisters, dementia specialist nurses, dementia champions and/or similar.

Support and commitment from the Trust Board will need to be demonstrated as well as evidence of local engagement patient/carers.

The programme will be made up of the following events:

- An opening event for all candidates of the development programme in 25**th** March 2013 to which 2-3 additional clinicians/leaders/stakeholders from the hospital will be invited.
- 2 development days in June and December 2013 at RCN HQ in London
- A site visit at each of the 8 participating hospital sites where Trust Board members and patient/carers will be invited to attend: Autumn 2013
- Final conference event to showcase the outcome of the development programme in March 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Launch event for development programme</td>
<td>25<strong>th</strong> March 2013</td>
<td>Successful participants plus colleagues from Trust</td>
<td>Birmingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development Day</td>
<td>11<strong>th</strong> June 2013</td>
<td>3 x participants from each hospital</td>
<td>London RCN HQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>On site visits</td>
<td>September/ October To be arranged</td>
<td>Local participants, staff teams and partner organisations including patient/carer representatives</td>
<td>Local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Day</td>
<td>3<strong>rd</strong> December 2013</td>
<td>3 x participants from each hospital</td>
<td>London RCN HQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final conference event to share outcomes</td>
<td>March 2014 tbc</td>
<td>External invitation and presentations from each of participating hospitals</td>
<td>tbc</td>
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Participants will be expected to commit to all of the above sessions and will need to demonstrate delivery of local action plans and submit patient/carer related outcomes as result of improvement initiatives to inform a final report.

Successful applicants will be informed by mid February 2013 but all potential applicants should ensure the dates of the development programme are free.

Local site visits will be negotiated with the RCN dementia development programme team to take place during Autumn 2013.

For further information or enquiries please contact Rachel Thompson (RCN Dementia Lead):

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