MonashHealth

Clinicians, Consumers, Evidence
Centre for Clinical Effectiveness

Evidence Snapshot

Allied Health Assistant for Delirium and Dementia support

Citation Garrubba M. 2016. Allied Health Assistant for Delirium and Dementia support. Centre for Clinical Effectiveness. Monash Health

Question

What is the role of an Allied Health Assistant – delirium and dementia support in a bed-based acute setting?

Search methods

PubMed and Google was used to search for relevant articles. No limits were set regarding year or language or study type. Search terms included: Allied Health Assistant – Dementia and Delirium Support, Assistant in Nursing, Dementia nurse specialist, Cognition Clinical Nurse Consultant.

A direct search of the "A Better Way to Care" resources as well as the NICE Delirium: prevention, diagnosis and management Guideline and the Cognitive Decline Partnership Centre Clinical Practice Guidelines and Principles of Care for People with Dementia.

Resources were also provided by the Monash Health Delirium and Dementia Non-Medical Management Workgroup.

Summary of findings

The search of the literature did not identify any information regarding the description of or evaluation of an Allied Health Assistant – Delirium and Dementia Support role or similar in a bed based acute hospital setting.

The presentation by Hamilton (2013), creating a dementia friendly environment in an acute care setting that supports patient safety and improved patient outcomes outlines the benefits of a cognition support role at Monash Health Casey in 2013.

Cognition Support Role Benefits
• Role modelling • Occupational Health & Safety issues • Escorts • Networking • Education • Functional maintenance • Collaborative work with Cognition Nurse Consultant and other members of the multidisciplinary team

In attempting to identify information about an Allied Health Assistant support role for delirium and dementia, the search identified a scoping review on the role of the dementia specialist nurse in acute care. This resource may be of use to the non-medical intervention – delirium and dementia working group for future interventions for implementation.

Griffiths, P et al. 2014. The role of the dementia specialist nurse in acute care: a scoping review. Journal of Clinical Nursing, 24, 1394–1405 http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jocn.12717/epdf