

CLAHRCBITE

Brokering innovation through evidence

Diagnosis and management of older people with dementia in acute hospitals



Results

Delirium and dementia are common in hospitalised older people. Much can be done to improve care.

Who needs to know?

- Commissioners
- Providers
- Practitioners
- Researchers

What did we do:

This paper is an essay prepared by collaborating experts, aiming to take stock of and hence share what we now understand in this relatively new and fast moving area in the light of increasing awareness of the importance of the problem.

What we found and what does this mean:

Dementia in acute hospitals is common, associated with poor outcomes and intricately linked with delirium: the two should be considered together when developing policy.

The decline in health and function after hospitalization attributed to these conditions may be due to the hospital environment and care itself. Hospital staff need training, hospital environments need making dementia-friendly, and dementia-related practices such as risk assessment and consideration of consent need to be applied.

What next:

Research is needed into the pathophysiology of these conditions so as to produce new therapies.

Research is needed into how the hospital environment can be further modified to prevent health worsening.

But there is enough evidence to implement dementia friendly processes in hospitals now.

Evidence:

Jackson TA, Gladman JRF, Harwood RH, MacLulich AMJ, Sampson EL, Sheehan B, Davis D. Challenges and opportunities in the diagnosis and management of older people with dementia in acute hospitals Plos Medicine 2017 Published: March 14, 2017 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002247>

What is NIHR CLAHRC EM?

NIHR Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRCs) are collaborations between the NHS, universities and local organisations. Our goals are to conduct applied health research across the East Midlands and translate our research findings into improved outcomes for the public.

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