



## Making Hospital Stays and Discharge Easier

Patients with dementia can be a difficult population for your hospital to treat because they may exhibit difficult behaviors and have cognitive challenges that can result in high-liability situations. They are also at high risk for delirium as a hospital stay can be a frightening and disorienting experience.

ComForcare can minimize the impact hospitalization can have on patients with dementia through our DementiaWise™ program, non-medical services that focus on crisis intervention and dementia care best practices.

**1 in 3 seniors will have dementia.** (Alzheimer's Association, 2013)  
More than 50% of hospital patients with pre-existing dementia will experience delirium, which is often missed due to confusion with their dementia.

(Donna M. Fick, Distinguished Professor of Nursing at Penn State<sup>1</sup>)

### What Can You Do?

We recommend these best practices to help ease the hospital experience for patients with dementia:

- Provide ongoing social contact and reassurance.
- Assign private rooms.
- Limit the time spent in the emergency department.
- Educate all staff of dementia diagnosis.
- Perform appropriate pain assessments.
- Understand how the profound changes in sensory processing that occurs with dementia.
- Partner with ComForcare for supplemental staffing and sitter service programs.
- Avoid medications known to worsen dementia and delirium.

### What Can ComForcare Do?

ComForcare's DementiaWise services use evidence-based, behavioral interventions, allowing us to manage difficult dementia behavior. We can provide support to your hospital staff through:

- **Supplemental Staffing**  
Specially-trained caregivers work bedside with patients to prevent and manage difficult behaviors.
- **Private Pay Services**  
Families hire our agency to ease the stress of hospitalization and minimize trauma for their loved one.
- **Care Coordination**  
We coordinate services with other health care providers.
- **Transition of Care and Care Management**  
We help patients comply with discharge instructions, monitor their vitals and identify and report red flag conditions to reduce readmissions to the hospital.
- **Specialized Home Care**  
Our customized care plan addresses the unique needs of clients with dementia.

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### Our Results in Caring for Patients with Dementia

DementiaWise focuses on patients' abilities, enhances their quality of life and helps them maintain their independence for as long as possible.

Through our Dementia care program:

- Patients safely and contentedly remain at home through all stages of their illness.
- Meaningful activities increase feelings of usefulness and decrease boredom.
- Clients' remaining abilities are identified and optimized, even as the disease progresses.
- Often starting in the first hour of services, patients are more accepting of care.
- Families are less stressed and are able to enjoy their relationship with their loved one.

## Services We Offer

- **Personal Hygiene and Grooming** – breaking down tasks into easy-to-follow steps
- **Bathing** – using special caregiving techniques for easier, more cooperative bathing
- **Music** – Singing with clients to their favorite music as a therapeutic activity
- **Maximizing Independence** – working with patients to use abilities still present
- **Meaningful Activities** – increasing enjoyment and purpose to decrease boredom and difficult behavior
- **Nutritious Meal Preparation** – adjusting offerings to meet nutritional needs and personal preferences
- **Safety Supervision** – constantly cueing and providing supportive assistance to prevent falls and wandering
- **Sensory Stimulation** – engaging through senses to stimulate language use and memory
- **Toileting and Continence Care** – using compassionate care strategies to maintain dignity and privacy
- **Dressing** – reducing the decision-making pressures of dressing appropriately

It is the quality of our care, not the severity  
of our patients' condition,  
that determines their quality of life.  
Call us today to learn how we can assist!

