

The Challenge

Committed to improving care for patient's living with dementia
'Right from the ED front door'!

Admissions into ED can be a very frightening experience for people with cognitive impairment, they can become distressed and confused with the unfamiliar surroundings, causing further anxiety despite nursing staff's repeated verbal reinforcements and it can often make diagnosis difficult.



The Solution

We introduced the My Improvement Network Technology as a means of minimising escalating anxiety and also as a means of assessing medical management. The system has proved to be very beneficial in providing preoccupation and distraction from the present ward based situation. It has been pivotal in providing overall contentment and calmness and has allowed the nursing staff to give appropriate medication which has, in turn, allowed us to deal with effective pain management where this has been present perhaps following injuries that may have been sustained.

All in all, it has had the effect of reducing length of stay in hospital, assists in enabling appropriate discharge plans often allowing patients to be returned to their own homes and supported by local community support.

Summary of benefits

of 'My Dementia Improvement
Network' intervention

with Isabel:

- Less distressing ED experience for Isabel who is living with dementia.
- Reduced need for one to one nursing support.
- Enhanced mood lead to increased compliance with analgesia/antibiotics.
- Effective analgesia management lead to improved independent mobility.
- Independent mobility led to appropriate safe and supported discharge home same day.
- Discharge home to familiar environment is best outcome for person living with dementia.
- Discharge same day - Admission avoidance - more efficient and effective service outcome for Trust
- We also use the unit in the Observation Unit in the Emergency Department which has a high incidence of overdoses and suicide attempts in patients of all ages.
- The Mental Health teams have used the units and have found them to be really successful.
- Vulnerable patient being sectioned, which would have been the outcome if she had tried to leave the department.
- It also works fantastically for VISUALLY IMPAIRED people, as they previously had no stimulation at all. They are in an alien environment with different sounds, smells and voices and this can be very distressing. The units have had a calming effect on these patients as music can be used to distract and give comfort and form engagement.
- RAIL AND ELDERLY patients are able to become involved in positive meaningful activated, in what would otherwise be a stressful and unfamiliar environment.
- This piece of software is so useful across numerous different therapy areas and not just for Dementia.