

Dementia

Nov 2020

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COVID-19

[Dementia ward inpatients need better protection from COVID-19](#) Summary of a recent study on the prevalence, management, and outcomes of COVID-19 infections in older people and dementia patients on mental health wards.

[Voices of people living with dementia and their carers on the closure of support services during COVID-19](#) This post reports on the findings of a qualitative study which considers the effects of COVID-19 on social support services for people with dementia.

[Guidance for health professionals supporting groups with specific complex needs who are or have been shielding](#) This document is aimed at psychologists and other health professionals supporting adults who are or have been subject to shielding, who have additional complex needs or considerations, including adults with learning/intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum conditions, and/or those living with dementia.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): looking after people who lack mental capacity](#) (updated) Guidance for health and social care staff who are caring for, or treating, a person who lacks the relevant mental capacity.

Studies

[Leisure activity participation and risk of dementia: 18 year follow-up of the Whitehall II Study](#) Research suggests those who lack interest in the world around them are at an increased risk of developing dementia.

[Long-term community noise exposure in relation to dementia, cognition, and cognitive decline in older adults](#) These results join emerging evidence suggesting that noise may influence late-life cognition and risk of dementia.

[People with mild memory problems are left in limbo between health and dementia, and need help to make lifestyle changes](#) In this study, researchers interviewed people with memory problems but not dementia, their family members, and healthcare providers. The research helped the authors design a programme to be offered to people with memory problems or mild cognitive impairment, but no dementia diagnosis which is currently being trialled.

Webinar

[Planning a nature-based programme for people living with dementia 16th November: 2 – 3pm](#). Join a free webinar to hear about the successful 'Dementia Adventure in a Box' project, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, where Dementia Adventure supported partner organisations to set up outdoor adventure activities for people with dementia in their locality.

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Systematic Review

[Impact of dementia on informal care: a systematic review of family caregivers' perceptions](#) This review of the evidence found that positive aspects of caregiving in caregivers' life encompass personal accomplishment and strengthening relationships, which were enhanced by good medical counselling/formal care support and family/friends support. The negative aspects included emotional and social aspects experienced by caregivers. Other factors such as inappropriate medical/formal care support, illness progression and the costs of dementia contributed to negative appraisal.

Statistics

[Dementia leading cause of death in September](#) The [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#) has revealed 'dementia and Alzheimer's disease' were the leading cause of death in September. Collectively they accounted for 11.2% of all deaths in England and 11.1% of deaths in Wales.

[Dementia deaths in private homes soar by 79%](#) The [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#) has revealed there were 2,095 excess deaths from dementia and Alzheimer's disease in private homes, registered between March 14 and September 11, in England. This is a rise of 79% compared with the average recorded for the same period over the past five years.

Publication

[Peer support and peer support workers in older people's mental health](#) There is very limited evidence on what works and the best models for older people's mental health peer support. While narrowly defined examples of peer support within mental health services are thin on the ground among people in later life, there is some evidence that peer support benefits people with dementia and poor mental health. Combatting social isolation, and cognitive engagement in particular, seem to be features of 'positive' peer support that can prevent or slow down either depression or dementia.

News

[Cost of dementia for hospitals in England doubles in a decade](#) Alzheimer's Research UK reveals the impact of dementia on hospitals in England, with a [new interactive tool](#). The findings show that dementia cost hospitals £2.7bn in 2017/18, compared to £1.2bn in 2010/11.