



Community and Mental Health Services

10 January 2023

## Guidance

### Mask and outbreak guidance updated in care settings

Guidance on the use of face masks in all care settings and on outbreaks in care homes has been updated. Providers can make risk-based decisions on when face masks are used, and care homes can initiate their own outbreak risk assessments to make decisions about which outbreak measures make sense for their individual settings.

## **Cochrane Review**

## Non-pharmacological interventions for sleep disturbances in people with dementia

Despite the inclusion of 19 randomised controlled trials, there is a lack of conclusive evidence concerning non-pharmacological interventions for sleep problems in people with dementia. Although neither single nor multimodal interventions consistently improved sleep with sufficient certainty, we found some positive effects on physical and social activities as well as carer interventions. Future studies should use rigorous methods to develop and evaluate the effectiveness of multimodal interventions using current guidelines on the development and evaluation of complex interventions. At present, no single or multimodal intervention can be clearly identified as suitable for widespread implementation.

## Webinar

### Changing perceptions of diagnosis

Our webinar on Wednesday 8th February 2023 will be led by Dr Susan Mitchell, Head of Policy at Alzheimer's Research UK alongside a panel of experts. We will consider how the preferences of people living with dementia, a shifting political landscape and advances in research and drug discovery can help the dementia diagnosis pathway evolve. Recent research will be presented which suggests a disconnect between what people at risk of developing or living with dementia want, and what their healthcare professionals think they want. The panel will discuss how we can reconcile patient preferences and clinical perceptions and close the gap.

# **Elearning**

<u>The Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards: Foundation update (January 2023)</u>

This month's Foundation elearning programme focuses on the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. The MCA protects the rights of vulnerable people, and the following group of sessions cover topics such as assessing capacity, consent, patient autonomy and safeguarding. (NB you will need to register to access this module).

### Preventing Dementia course

<u>Massive Open Online Course</u> are holding a four week understanding Dementia course. Participants will gain an increased understanding of dementia, including causes, symptoms and ways of responding to those living with the condition. More details can be found in the <u>attached poster</u>.



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## **Blogs**

### The aftermath of Christmas with dementia

Christmas can be a hectic time for all of us, and often generates a range of emotions. Some people find it exciting and uplifting, but others – particularly people with dementia and their family carers – may find it overwhelming and exhausting. With the help of dementia specialist Clinical Lead Admiral Nurse Vic Lyons, we have put together some tips to help you navigate the aftermath of Christmas.

### Activities can provide meaningful benefits and reduce stress

People living with Alzheimer's disease don't have to give up the activities that they love. In addition to enhancing quality of life, activities can reduce behaviors like wandering or agitation and can help reduce caregiver stress.

## News

### Dementia village in Warwick is a pioneer in person-centred care

Modelled on a <u>groundbreaking Dutch experiment</u> in looking after people with Alzheimer's disease, the purpose-built facility, which opened in 2019, is quietly breaking new ground for a better kind of dementia care.

#### Dementia patients in England facing 'national crisis' in care safety

Nearly one in 10 care homes in England that offer dementia support reported on by Care Quality Commission inspectors in 2022 were given the very worst rating – more than three times the ratio in 2019.

### US regulator grants accelerated approval for Alzheimer's drug lecanemab

Doctors can now prescribe lecanemab to people living in the US with a confirmed diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or early-stage Alzheimer's disease, who have appropriate medical insurance, or can afford to pay for it directly. What does this mean for people living with Alzheimer's in the UK?

#### NHS launches new dementia diagnosis drive

Hundreds more people will be checked for dementia thanks to a new specialist service being trialled across the country. Care home residents will be proactively assessed for the condition by specialist nurses and other healthcare professionals through 14 new pilot schemes being rolled out in the new year.