



The **ROYAL**
HOSPITALS

Caring for people who wander in a rehabilitation unit

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The people we are caring for

- 'Snap' survey in August 2005
 - 20 out of 72 people being cared for in the unit with some form of confusion
 - 12 of these with a diagnosis of dementia
 - ?? of these either able or wanting to move without assistance
- Critical incidents
 - People leaving the unit (including one fatality)
 - Agreed plan to look at practice more critically and change based on what we found



The environment assessment

- Physical environment
 - Observation difficult
 - No specific adaptations
 - Touchpad locked doors
- Staffing
 - 6-8 staff in mornings (3-4 RN's)
 - 4/5 staff in evenings (2 RN's)



Staff attitudes and knowledge

- A number of Survey workshops were undertaken:
 - Staff asked “what words does dementia call to mind?”
 - The language used varied – ‘every patient is an individual’ to ‘confused’ & ‘agitated’ Showed no shared values and beliefs for practice
 - Tensions – maintaining safety vs. autonomy
 - Staff asked “how do we care for people with dementia on the unit?”
 - Claims – individualised care and involvement of family
 - Concerns – management of risk and dignity
 - Issues – community provision, skills and knowledge
 - Staff asked “how can we build on what we do?”
 - Environment, knowledge & skills, looking at management of care
- Available expertise was felt to include
 - Staff expertise and experience
 - specialist education
 - systems of support (specialist medicine, nursing; clinical psychology)

Surveyed Our Approaches to Care

- Assessment
 - No formal tool around wandering
 - Assessment focused on of rationale for restraint
 - Not specific
- Risk management
 - Medication very rarely used
 - Some use of physical restraint
 - Supervision of patients : can be practically difficult, especially in afternoons & evenings



Summary of the issues

- Developing our knowledge and skills
 - In practice – learning as we work with patients
 - Formal education input
- Care management
 - Mechanisms for specific assessment & care
 - Access to more timely specialist support
- Environment
 - Make changes and manage it better

