

Vol 6 no 5
May 2009
ISSN 1743-9620

Infection Control is our featured topic this month

[Introduction](#)

[Web resources on Infection Control](#)

[Reading list on Infection Control](#)

Current Awareness

[News stories on Dementia](#)

[New on the DSDC library bookshelves](#)

[New articles in the DSDC library](#)

Forthcoming event

Acute care and dementia

12 June 2009

£120

People with dementia do not cope well when admitted to an acute hospital. Their medical illness will be attended to with skill but other aspects of care can be overlooked. This seminar will consider low cost-practical ways of making the acute care experience less disorientating, anxiety provoking and stressful for the person. Delegates will receive a copy of the new DSDC Acute Care & Dementia Guide.

This seminar is aimed at doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and healthcare assistants who work in acute care.

For more information, and to book a place, follow this link: <http://www.dementia.stir.ac.uk/node/300>

In the headlines

Vitamin D 'may stop dementia'

Vitamin D could boost brain functions and offer protection against dementia, new research suggests. Middle-aged and older men with higher levels of the nutrient in their blood were found to have better cognitive function than those with lower amounts. The study found that higher levels of vitamin D were linked to better memory and faster information processing, although the second factor was also affected by mood and activity level.

[Scotsman.com 21 May 2009](#)

Irregular heartbeat linked to increase risk of dementia: researchers

People with an irregular heartbeat are more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease, new research has shown. The findings suggest people with atrial fibrillation were more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease – the most common form of dementia. People with both atrial fibrillation and dementia were 61 per cent more likely to die during the five year study than dementia patients without the heart condition.

[Telegraph.co.uk 15 May 2009](#)

Infection Control

Introduction

Infection prevention and control has become a priority for the health and social care staff working in a hospital, a care home environment or in a person's own home.

To ensure those with infections are cared for appropriately and actions are taken to minimise the risk of cross-infection, employers should have Infection Prevention and Control Policies in place and all staff attend mandatory training to promote the knowledge of infection prevention and control procedures to enhance patient and staff safety. The Department of Health have specific publications which provide a framework to support local organisations' use of best practice to prevent and manage the spread of infections.

The risk of MRSA

Methicillin resistant strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) are now endemic in many hospitals, nursing and residential homes throughout the United Kingdom. As well as being resistant to methicillin (flucloxacillin), these organisms are also resistant to many other antibiotics. "Epidemic" strains of MRSA are so-called because they spread very easily from one person to another, and unfortunately they can cause serious infections such as septicaemia (blood poisoning) and osteomyelitis (bone infection). As the range of antibiotics available to treat these infections is so limited, it is important to try to prevent the spread of MRSA in patient/resident areas and in the person's home.

Spread of infection

MRSA is spread from one patient/resident to another mainly by the hands of health care and social care staff. Hand hygiene is therefore one of the most important ways of preventing spread of this organism. Patients/residents whose skin is heavily colonised with MRSA i.e. those who have eczema, pressure sores or leg ulcers may shed large numbers of bacteria into their immediate environment, and MRSA can survive in dust for many days.

In healthcare settings

Good hand hygiene practice must be carried out by staff, patients and visitors. This is the single most important measure which is essential to prevent the spread of infection. A good quality liquid soap and disposable paper hand towels must be used, or alcohol hand rub when hands are not visibly soiled. Today staff working in our hospitals are issued with personal alcohol gel dispensers and you may see others that are in a wall mounted bottle or in free standing dispensers.

Precautions related to residential facilities such as care homes.

- Any resident who cannot wash their hands due to mental or physical difficulties should be assisted by care staff to carry this out
- There is no reason to isolate a resident in their room
- The room should be vacuumed and damp dusted daily, separate cleaning cloths being used
- When using equipment which will be used by other residents, for example, a commode, lifting hoist or bath, always wash, rinse and dry it thoroughly after each use with a general purpose cleaner
- Clothes and laundry do not need to be segregated from those of other residents. A colour coded bagging system for laundry which all staff recognise should be in place as a routine
- The resident with MRSA does not pose a risk to others with normal social contact and healthy people are at little risk of infection from MRSA. Therefore the resident can move freely within the home and can interact with staff, other residents or visiting relatives and friends provided any open wounds are covered with a waterproof dressing and the importance of hand washing is reinforced
- Residents who are MRSA positive or have a history of MRSA should have this clearly recorded in their records which are kept by the residential facility
- Advice and guidance about the prevention and control of MRSA can be sought from the Public Health Infection Control Nurse

Control of MRSA in the person's own home

People who are infected or colonised with MRSA who live in their own home should be encouraged to lead a normal life. There are no specific infection control measures to be taken. Both they and their partner should be given common sense advice about the importance of good personal hygiene and keeping their home environment clean.

People with infection should be assessed by the GP and managed accordingly.

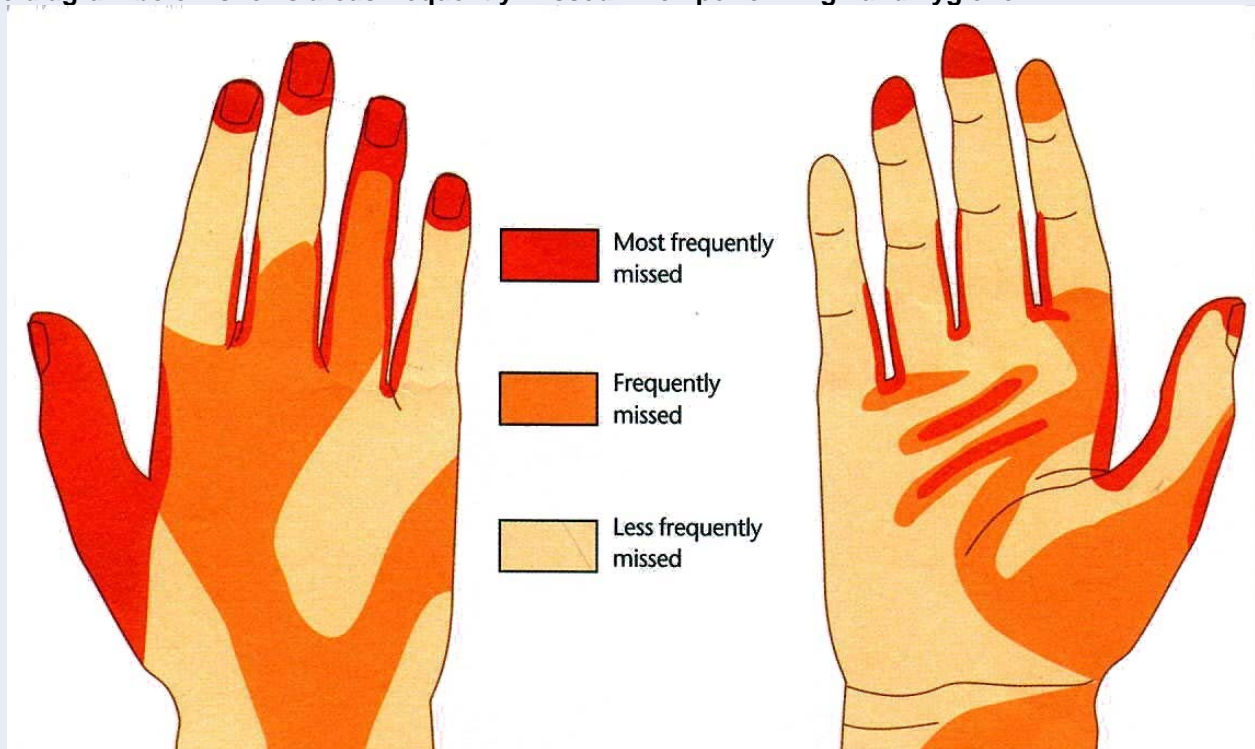
All health and social care staff working in a person's own home are required to undertake a risk assessment of the facilities available to perform hand hygiene. The following options are suggested:

- Where running water and soap are available and access to the sink is clear, staff can carry paper hand towels to use in the client's home
- When soap is not available, the staff can carry her own supply of liquid soap / paper hand towels as recommended by the employer
- If access is difficult or limited, and hands are visibly clean, alcohol hand gel could be used
- If hands are contaminated ensure that any facilities available in the persons' own home are used and follow up with alcohol rub
- On returning to base ensure that an effective hand wash with soap and water is undertaken

Hand hygiene should be performed

- After visiting the toilet
- After blowing your nose
- Before and after preparing, handling or eating food
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty
- Before commencing work and after leaving a work area
- After removal of gloves or protective clothing
- Before and after administering a medication
- After handling clinical/domestic waste (even if gloves are worn)

The diagram below shows areas frequently missed when performing hand hygiene



Shirley Law
Project Leader / Associate Trainer

Infection Control

Web Resources

Infection control guidance for care homes

The aim of this document is to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to protect residents and staff from acquiring infections in care homes.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4136381

Infection control: risks in nursing and residential care homes

The author looks at the specific risks of infection that are found in nursing and residential care homes and outlines some infections which are commonly found and can be prevented.

http://www.internurse.com/cgi-bin/go.pl/library/article.cgi?uid=7896;article=NRC_1_2_87_91

Healthcare associated infections (HAI): information for the public

Information leaflet for the general public giving guidance on healthcare associated infections (HAI) and how they can be prevented

<http://www.documents.hps.scot.nhs.uk/hai/infection-control/publications/hai-leaflet.pdf>

Infection control in adult care homes: final standards

Scottish Executive document detailing standards for infection control in residential care.

<http://openscotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/37428/0012530.pdf>

Managing outbreaks of respiratory illness in care homes

This guidance aims to provide health protection staff and the NHS with evidence-based guidance on the management of outbreaks of acute respiratory illness in care homes.

<http://mrsaactionuk.net/Care%20Homes/RI%20care%20home%20guidelines.pdf>

Skin care: an essential component of hand hygiene and infection control

Skin care is an important component of hand hygiene and also infection prevention education programmes relating to hand hygiene.

http://www.internurse.com/cgi-bin/go.pl/library/article.cgi?uid=27075;article=BJN_16_16_976_981

Infection control: MRSA in the care home

This article discusses the important role that staff can play in preventing the transmission of infection in the care home.

http://www.internurse.com/cgi-bin/go.pl/library/article.cgi?uid=27423;article=NRC_9_11_511_514

Infection control in home care

Although home care has expanded in scope and intensity in the past decade, infection surveillance, prevention, and control efforts have lagged behind.

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0GVK/is_2_7/ai_73889929/?tag=content;col1

Introduction to infection control in care homes

These seven short films are designed to provide staff with an introduction to infection control.

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1229594195568?p=1229594195568>

Infection Control

Topic Reading List

Gould, Dinah

Infection control : hand hygiene.

British journal of healthcare assistants. 3(3), March 2009, 110-113.

Hand hygiene is the single most effective way of preventing and controlling the spread of infection.

Madeo, Maurice

Reducing the risks associated with urinary catheters.

Nursing standard. 23(29), 25-31 March 2009, 47-55.

This article looks at evidence-based guidance and technological innovations aimed at reducing infection risks and improving patient outcomes when using urinary catheters.

Banning, Maggie

Ageing and the gut.

Nursing older people. 20(1), February 2008, 17-21.

Rising infection rates with pathogens such as *Clostridium difficile* have seen UK hospitals undergo a 'deep clean', to make sure wards do not harbour diseases. The author explains why older people are particularly at risk.

Eveillard, Mattheiu

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* carriage in a long-term care facility : hypothesis about selection and transmission.

Age and ageing. 37(3), May 2008, 294-299.

The purpose of this study was to suggest hypothesis on the possible ways of MRSA transmission to residents in or outside a long-term care facility.

Foxley, Sue

Your role in urinary catheter management.

British journal of healthcare assistants. 2(2), February 2008, 58-62.

Caring for patients who have an indwelling urinary catheter is a common feature of clinical nursing practice which for some patients is essential to their medical management. However, evidence suggests that in many cases catheterisation may be unjustified, exposing the patient to a significant risk of acquiring a urinary tract infection which extends length of stay for a patient that may be hospitalised. Improving the care for these patients depends on good education, implementation of best practice, adequate resources, treatment and competent staff.

Nazarko, Linda

Malnutrition : identification and treatment.

British journal of healthcare assistants. 2(6), June 2008, 279-282.

Many people who are admitted to hospital are malnourished. Illness can further increase the risks of malnutrition which increases the risk of infection and impedes recovery. Assessing a person can enable staff to identify those who are malnourished and those who are at risk of malnourishment. This enables the healthcare team to act to address problems and enable the person to recover.

Nazarko, Linda

Standard precautions : how to help prevent infection.

British journal of healthcare assistants. 2(3), March 2008, 119-123.

This article provides information about infection risks in healthcare and what can be done to improve infection control practice.

Nazarko, Linda

The importance of uniform policy.

British journal of healthcare assistants. 2(5), May 2008, 239-242.

Some healthcare workers may consider uniform policies to be controlling and may not always comply with policy. This article explains the rationale behind uniform policies and their importance in preventing infection and presenting a professional image that inspires confidence.

Nazarko, Linda

Treating the patient or the labstick? : urinary infections in older people.

British journal of healthcare assistants. 2(7), July 2008, 323-326.

People who are admitted to hospital are at risk of developing infections. Infection control strategies including strict hand hygiene, using standard precautions and prudent antibiotic prescribing reduce the risks of patients developing infection and maintain health. This article aims to enable you to understanding how urinary tract infection is diagnosed and treated.

Peate, Ian

Body fluids part 1 : infection control.

British journal of healthcare assistants. 2(1), January 2008, 6-10.

Body fluids are potentially infectious fluids putting patients, visitors and hospital staff at risk of infection. All staff have a duty to ensure that they protect themselves and others by instigating standard infection control precautions.

Adamis, Dimitrios

APOE and cytokines as biological markers for recovery of prevalent delirium in elderly medical inpatients.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry. 22(7), July 2007, 688-694.

Delirium frequently occurs in the context of infection and other inflammatory conditions associated with elevated levels of cytokines. Cytokines used therapeutically can induce symptoms of delirium as an adverse effect. We hypothesized that a causal relationship might exist between delirium and cytokine production during illness. We also speculated that the APOE genotype of patients might influence their rate of recovery from delirium given that APOE is associated with amyloid deposition, increased susceptibility to exogenous neurotoxins, and can affect the immune response.

Van der Steen, Jenny T.

Treatment strategy and risk of functional decline and mortality after nursing-home acquired lower respiratory tract infection : two prospective studies in residents with dementia.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry. 22(10), October 2007, 1013-1019.

Research article. Although lower respiratory tract infections (LRI) cause considerable morbidity and mortality among nursing home residents with dementia, the effects of care and treatment are largely unknown. Few large prospective studies have been conducted. We pooled data from two large prospective cohort studies in 61 Dutch nursing homes and 36 nursing homes in the state of Missouri, United States.

Management of suspected bacterial urinary tract infection in adults : a national clinical guideline / Edinburgh, Scotland : SIGN, [2006].

This guideline provides recommendations based on current evidence for best practice in the management of adults with community acquired urinary tract infection. It includes all adult women (including pregnant women) and men of all ages, patients with catheters and patients with comorbidities such as diabetes. It excludes children and patients with hospital acquired infection. The guideline does not address prophylaxis to prevent UTI after instrumentation or surgery or treatment of recurrent UTI.

Royal College of Nursing Good practice in infection prevention and control. guidance for nursing staff. London : Royal College of Nursing, 2005.

This updated guidance emphasises the key roles that nursing staff and other health workers in the NHS and independent sector have in helping to reduce the prevalence of health care associated infections. This publication includes information on the general principles of infection prevention and control, including standard infection prevention and control practice, decontamination, achieving and maintaining a clean clinical environment, what to do in the event of an invasive injury/accident, and the importance of good communication.

Parsonage, Mirella Jane

Lesson of the week : a new cause of treatable dementia.

Age and ageing. 33(3), May 2004, 315-316.

Case report: a 69-year-old married British man presented with 4 months of falls and confusion. HIV antibody test, performed after exclusion of other diagnoses, was positive. Institution of triple antiretroviral therapy resulted in an almost complete recovery. HIV infection is now far more common than syphilis. It may be highly amenable to treatment and needs to be considered in the differential diagnosis of the older person with dementia.

Kendall, Kevin J.(Kevin James),

Practical approaches to infection control in residential aged care

Melbourne : Ausmed Publications, 2003.

This book aims to provide a guide to infection control for all staff engaged in residential aged care and a wide range of other care settings.

Lieberman, David

Infectious aetiologies in elderly patients hospitalised with non-pneumonic lower respiratory tract infection.

Age and ageing. 32(1), January 2003, 95-101.

Study to identify the infectious aetiologies of non-pneumonic lower respiratory tract infections in hospitalised elderly patients, and the characterise the patients in terms of demographic, clinical and therapeutic variables.

Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network.

Community management of lower respiratory tract infection : a national clinical guideline

Edinburgh : Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network, 2002.

Gould, Dinah

Infection control in older people.

Nursing older people. 13(4), June 2001, 20-22.

The second of a series of articles on infection control. Considers methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and elderly people living in residential settings, including those with dementia. 9 references.

Kendall, Kevin J

Practical approaches to infection control in residential aged care.

Melbourne : Ausmed Publications, 2000.

Although this book was written specifically with residential aged care staff in mind, the author's know-how can be applied in any health care setting.

Pennells, D

Risk factors for infection in nursing homes.

Nursing times. Vol 96 No 46, 16 November - 22 November 2000, p.38-9.

Elderly debilitated people living in residential homes may be exposed to factors which increase their susceptibility to infection. Describes a study that investigated the problem

New on the library bookshelves



Evidence-based healthcare design / Rosalyn Cama ; foreword by Craig Zimring.
Hoboken, N.J. : John Wiley & Sons, c2009.

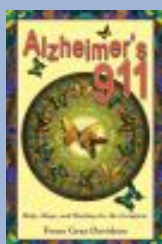
Evidence-based design enables interior designers, architects and their clients to optimise design decisions via a process of gathering, evaluating and applying current best evidence from research and practice.



Mental health and well-being in later life / edited by Mima Cattan.

Maidenhead : Open University Press, 2009.

This book looks broadly at the mental health and well-being issues that affect adults in later life. Taking a holistic approach to mental health and its promotion, the book explores what is meant by mental health and mental illness and the wider social determinants of mental health.



Alzheimer's 911 : help, hope, and healing for the caregiver / Frena Gray-Davidson.

Bandon, OR : Robert D. Reed Publishers, 2009.

In this book, aimed at carers, the author takes the same approach to the inner world of people with dementia as she did as a foreign correspondent - looking with fresh and curious eyes to understand the people from their perspective, without judgement.



Hospital architecture + design / Christine Nickl-Weller / Hans Nickl (eds.).

[Berlin] : Braun, 2009.

This book provides an international overview of current hospital projects. All projects share the goal of fulfilling the requirements of hospitals as functional buildings, while meeting high aesthetic demands.



Mild cognitive impairment and early Alzheimer's disease : detections and diagnosis / Jeffrey M. Burns, John C. Morris.

Chichester, West Sussex ; Hoboken, NJ : John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, c2008.

This book describes the cognitive changes associated with age, the earliest detectable stages of Alzheimer's, and the relationship of these conditions to mild cognitive impairment.



Remembering home : rediscovering the self in dementia / Habib Chaudhury.

Baltimore : Johns Hopkins University Press, c2008.

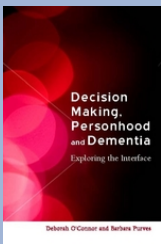
This book discusses the importance of memories of home in the lives of people with dementia and suggests ways in which carers can encourage reminiscences to improve quality of life for those people.



Sustainable healthcare architecture / Robin Guenther, Gail Vittori ; [foreword by Rick Fedrizzi].

Hoboken, N.J. : John Wiley & Sons, c2008.

This book includes case studies of more than fifty of the best contemporary sustainable healthcare buildings from around the world.



Decision making, personhood and dementia: exploring the interface / edited by Deborah O'Connor and Barbara Purves.

London : Jessica Kingsley, 2009.

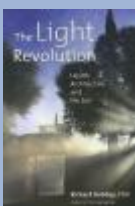
A key dilemma in the care of people with dementia has focused on determining when a person is no longer capable of making decisions. This book aims to broaden the discussion by exploring the significance of personhood and suggesting that understanding decision-making in dementia requires moving beyond a rational, cognitive ability.



The wilderness / Samantha Harvey.

London : Jonathan Cape, 2009.

In this story a man with Alzheimer's disease tries to hold on to the memories he has left and discover what has happened to his loved ones.



The light revolution / Richard Hobday.

Forres : Findhorn, 2006.

This book brings together historical evidence, traditional wisdom and scientific findings to explain how to use light, especially sunlight, to promote health in the built environment.

Current Awareness

Dementia in the News

'A Neverland of easy promises'

A strategy for early diagnosis and treatment of dementia ignores the fact that infrastructure for end-of-life care is just not good enough.

Guardian.co.uk 22 May 2009

Alzheimer's barbs spark row in Stormont

A political row has broken out in Northern Ireland over the use of the phrase "suffering from Alzheimer's disease" as a put-down.

Guardian.co.uk 20 May 2009

Author slams poor dementia help

The author Sir Terry Pratchett has said the lack of memory clinics offering support to people with dementia "disgusts him".

BBC News Online 20 May 2009

Weight loss link to dementia risk

Researchers have produced more evidence that rapid weight loss in old age may be a early warning sign of dementia. The study suggests the risk of dementia appears to be particularly high if the person started out overweight or obese.

BBC News Online 19 May 2009

Keep working 'to avoid dementia'

Research suggests keeping the brain active by working later in life may be an effective way to ward off Alzheimer's disease. The study, featured in the International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, found that for the men, continuing to work late in life helped keep the brain sharp enough to delay dementia taking hold.

BBC News Online 17 May 2009

Chemical clue to dementia decline

Scientists have identified compounds in spinal fluid which may give an early warning of how fast patients with mild dementia will decline. The level of these chemicals seems to correlate with the rate at which thinking, learning and memory skills fade as dementia takes its toll.

BBC News Online 11 May 2009

Binge drinking "causes up to one in four dementia cases"

A study has found that between 10 and 24 per cent of all cases of dementia could be caused by alcohol-related brain damage. The worrying finding suggests that having a heavy alcohol intake could be far worse for mental health than previously thought.

Telegraph.co.uk 10 May 2009

Trial drugs 'reverse' Alzheimer's

US scientists say they have successfully reversed the effects of Alzheimer's with experimental drugs. The drugs target and boost the function of a newly pinpointed gene involved in the brain's memory formation. In mice, the treatment helped restore long-term memory and improve learning for new tasks, the journal Nature reports.

BBC News Online 7 May 2009

Current Awareness New Library Stock

Ageism

Trueland, Jennifer

Guidelines to counter ageism.

Nursing older people 21(4), May 2009, 6-7

New guidance for nurses on caring for older people emphasises the importance of the personal touch

Alternative therapies

Rose, Karen M.

Cranial electrical stimulation : potential use in reducing sleep and mood disturbances in persons with dementia and their family caregivers.

Alzheimer's care today 10(2), April-June 2009, 108-114

Family caregivers of persons with dementia and their care recipients can experience sleep and mood disturbances during their caregiving and disease trajectories. As older adults use complementary and alternative medicines for the relief of sleep and mood disturbances, cranial electrical stimulation may be a viable intervention. Directions for research are proposed.

Approaches to care

Waugh, Fran

Where does risk feature in community care practice with older people with dementia who live alone?

Dementia 8(2), May 2009, 205-222

This article reports on five practitioners' perspectives of what were the key elements of their practice in community care for older persons with dementia who live alone.

Assessment/diagnosis

Williamson, Toby

Out of the shadows : attending to its message.

The journal of dementia care 17(3), May/June 2009, 26-27

The author spells out important messages from people with dementia and their carers on coping with dementia and diagnosis.

Assistive technology

Bowes, Alison and McColgan, Gillian

Implementing telecare for people with dementia : supporting ageing in place in West Lothian, Scotland.

Journal of care services management 3(3), April-June 2009, 227-243

This paper reviews the positive evaluation of West Lothian's telecare programme in relation to provision of telecare at home for people with dementia.

Perry, Jonathan

The impact of objective quality of life outcomes of assistive technology in residential services for people with learning disabilities.

Journal of assistive technologies 3(1), March 2009, 5-14

Preventative technologies are increasingly being incorporated into residential services for people with learning disabilities. This paper describes an evaluation of a sample of settings in which assistive devices have been installed.

Lowe, Charles

Beyond telecare : the future of independent living.

Journal of assistive technologies 3(1), March 2009, 21-23

This paper is an argument for a more holistic approach to independent living.

Price, Celia

Just Checking : lessons three years on.

The journal of dementia care 17(3), May/June 2009, 12-13

The author shares lessons from the first years of using the Just Checking monitoring system.

Behaviour

Lowery, David

Behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD) : the personal and practical costs of dementia.

Journal of integrated care 17(2), April 2009, 13-19

The authors describe what BPSD are, what is known about current service provision for this group and the gaps, and how commissioners might approach these issues when developing services for people with dementia.

Care of people with dementia

Dearnaley, Patricia and Elliott, Jenny

The use of the SPECAL method in working with people with dementia : patronising or palliative?

Journal of care services management 3(3), April-June 2009, 310-313

This paper argues that, far from being patronising or infantilising, the Specialised Early Care for Alzheimer's (SPECAL) method offers palliative relief to clients with memory disabilities and enables a release from the stress caused by constant reminders of the condition.

Gerdner, Linda A. and Simpson, Helen C.

Access and use of health services in the Arkansas delta by African American caregivers.

Alzheimer's care today 10(2), April-June 2009, 81-92

It is believed that the incidence of dementia is underreported in African Americans, partly due to delays in seeking care. As part of a larger study, family caregivers living in the Arkansas delta were interviewed. This article focuses on concerns related to the elder's condition and access and use of health services.

Carers

Lee, I. [et al.]

Family caregivers' viewpoints towards quality of long-term care services for community-dwelling elders in Taiwan.

Health and social care in the community 17(3), May 2009, 312-320

The purpose of this study is to explore family caregivers' viewpoints and opinions regarding the long-term care services for community-dwelling older adults in Taiwan.

Netto, Nicholas Raphael, Jenny, Goh Yen Ni and Philip, Yap Lin Kiat

Growing and gaining through caring for a loved one with dementia.

Dementia 8(2), May 2009, 245-261

This study aimed to investigate the gains experienced by family caregivers of persons with dementia.

Whitlatch, Carol J., Piiparinin, Rich and Feinberg, Lynn Friss

How well do family caregivers know their relatives' care values and preferences?

Dementia 8(2), May 2009, 223-243

This study examines the psychometric properties of the Values and Preferences Scale and compares the responses of people with cognitive impairment with those of their family carers to determine the accuracy of the carers' perceptions of their relatives' care values and preferences.

Conference reports

Graham, Nori

On the march against stigma.

The journal of dementia care 17(3), May/June 2009, 14-15

The author reports on Alzheimer's Disease International's conference in Singapore, March 2009.

Continenence

Byles, Julie

Living with urinary incontinence : a longitudinal study of older women.

Age and ageing 38(3), May 2009, 333-338

The aim of this study was to investigate changes in continence status among a large cohort of older women, and to identify factors associated with the incidence of incontinence in later life.

Dementia

Genova, Lisa

How does dementia feel?

Living with dementia May 2009, 6-7

Neurologist Lisa Genova has written a best selling novel about dementia. Here, she explains what she hoped to achieve by writing it.

Peters, Ruth

The prevention of dementia.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry 24(5), May 2009, 452-458

This article presents the findings of a literature review on the prevention of dementia.

Dementia and learning disabilities

Strydom, Andre [et al.]

Dementia in older adults with intellectual disabilities : a report on the State of Science on Dementia in older adults groups with intellectual disabilities by the IASSID Special Interest Research Group on Ageing and Intellectual Disabilities.

[s.l.] : IASSID, 2009.

Life expectancy of people with intellectual disabilities has significantly increased over the past fifty years. This has led to increased risk of ageing associated disability. Dementia is a growing source of morbidity and mortality, and is known to be associated with unique caregiver issues, burden and rising care costs.

Depression

Elderkin-Thompson, Virginia [et al.]

Prefrontal brain morphology and executive function in healthy and depressed elderly.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry 24(5), May 2009, 459-468

Late-life depression is known to correlate with decreased brain volumes in anterior cingulate, gyrus rectus and orbitofrontal cortex and with executive dysfunction, but the relationship between morphometry of reduced volume areas and executive dysfunction has not been well defined.

Nelson, J. Craig

Anxiety does not predict response to antidepressant treatment in late life depression : results of a meta-analysis.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry 24(5), May 2009, 539-544

This study aimed to determine if anxiety predicts antidepressant response in previously identified placebo-controlled trials of second generation antidepressants for late-life depression.

Van Vliet, Peter [et al.]

Use of benzodiazepines, depressive symptoms and cognitive function in old age.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry 24(5), May 2009, 500-508

This study investigated whether benzodiazepine use is associated with depressive symptoms and cognitive function and what the temporal relation underlying the associations is.

Design

Cunningham, Colm

Auditing design for dementia.

The journal of dementia care 17(3), May/June 2009, 31-32

The author explains how and why Stirling University's Dementia Services Development Centre have developed a design audit tool for evaluating design in dementia care environments.

Davis, Sandra [et al.]

Guiding design of dementia friendly environments in residential care settings : considering the living experiences.

Dementia 8(2), May 2009, 185-203

This article argues that the experience of the person with dementia should frame the perspective brought to built design and the philosophy of care - in essence, 'looking out from the inside'.

Torrington, Judith

Extra care housing : environmental design to support activity and meaningful engagement for people with dementia.

Journal of care services management 3(3), April-June 2009, 250-257

This opinion piece argues that buildings designed for people with dementia have often been more successful in addressing problems than reflecting aspirations for optimum care and quality of life.

Diet/nutrition

Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care .

Promoting nutrition in care homes for older people.

Dundee : Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care, c2008.

Making sure older people have nutritious food and drinks is fundamental to good care. This report evaluates a programme aimed at improving nutrition in Scotland's care homes for older people.

Nazarko, Linda, Delucchi, Kevin and Schneider, Lon S.

Nutrition part 5 : dysphasia.

British journal of healthcare assistants 3(3), May 2009, 228-232

People may become malnourished because they have difficulty swallowing (dysphagia). This article explains how to recognise and manage dysphagia.

Nutritional care and older people.

Community care 1770, 14 May 2009, 32-33

The Social Care Institute for Excellence analyse research findings behind various aspects for nutritional care and older people.

Drug treatment

Feldman, Howard H. [et al.]

Treatment with galantamine and time to nursing home placement in Alzheimers' disease patients with and without cerebrovascular disease.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry 24(5), May 2009, 479-488

This study evaluated patient and treatment factors associated with time until nursing home placement in patients with Alzheimer's disease with and without cerebrovascular disease.

Rodda, Joanne and Walker, Zuzana
Ten years of cholinesterase inhibitors.
International journal of geriatric psychiatry 24(5), May 2009, 437-442
This editorial summarises ten years of evidence relating to the use of cholinesterase inhibitors in Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

Thompson, Amanda and Jesson, Barbara
Medicines and people with dementia 5 : antipsychotics: what are the facts?
The journal of dementia care 17(3), May/June 2009, 10-11
Following guidance on the initiation and review of antipsychotic medicines for people with dementia in the National Dementia Strategy, the authors clarify some best practice principles.

Elder abuse

Shipman, Debra and Hooten, Jack
Staff background checks : safeguarding vulnerable adults.
Nursing older people 21(4), May 2009, 23-26
This article discusses safeguards that an organisation in the US can put in place to protect its interests and help keep patients or residents safe and preserve their integrity.

End of life care

Wright, Stuart
Measuring well-being when it matters most.
The journal of dementia care 17(3), May/June 2009, 32-33
The author explains how profiling one resident's wellbeing prompted staff to try a fresh approach to her care in the final days of her life.

Dutton, Rachael
Improving the quality of dying.
Journal of care services management 3(3), April-June 2009, 258-260
This paper describes a new service offering end-of-life care for people with dementia across a number of London boroughs.

Furneaux, Jacqui
A better death.
Nursing standard 23(35), May 6-12 2009, 64
The author discovered she had much to learn about end of life care after working in New Zealand.

Exercise

Dayanim, Soshana
The acute effects of a specialised movement programme on the verbal abilities of patients with late-stage dementia.
Alzheimer's care today 10(2), April-June 2009, 93-98
This study provides an initial investigation of the possible cognitive effects of a specialised exercise programme for people with late-stage Alzheimer's disease.

Sale, Anabel Unity
Oldest wingers in town.
Community care 1768, 30 April 2009, 26 & 28
Norwich City Football Club is helping older people keep well and happy by providing sporting opportunities and group activities.

Home care

Bond, Stewart M.

Delirium at home : strategies for home health clinicians.

Alzheimer's care today 10(2), April-June 2009, 99-107

This article reviews delirium and describes strategies for detecting and managing delirium in the home care setting.

Ryburn, Bridget

Enabling independence : restorative approaches to home care provision for frail older adults.

Health and social care in the community 17(3), May 2009, 225-234

This study reviews the 'real world' potential (ie. efficacy and effectiveness) of restorative approaches towards home care for frail older adults.

Whitham, Graham

Home improvement agencies, dementia and older people.

Journal of care services management 3(3), April-June 2009, 214-222

This paper considers the need for, and some potential means of delivering, practical support services that can enable older people with dementia to live in mainstream housing for longer.

Huntington's disease

Baker, Mark and Blumlein, Daniela

Huntington's disease part 1 : what is it?

British journal of healthcare assistants 3(3), May 2009, 227

This is the first in a two-part series of Huntington's disease. This article describes what the neurological disease is and how it affects sufferers.

Intergenerational perception of ageing

Gilfoy, Kathryn and Knocker, Sally

Magic across the generations.

The journal of dementia care 17(3), May/June 2009, 22-25

The authors describe two Magic Me projects that bring young and older people together in care homes

Life story work

Russell, Catherine

Life story work and nursing home residents with dementia.

Nursing older people 21(4), May 2009, 28-32

This study used narrative research methodology to listen to the stories of five nursing home residents with dementia. The researcher analytically reconstructed the stories they told to provide insight into participants' understanding of themselves.

Memory clinics

Jolley, David and Graham, Sandra

Memory clinics networks : helping professionals thrive.

The journal of dementia care 17(3), May/June 2009, 11-12

The authors explain what has been involved in getting the West Midlands memory clinic network up and running.

Older people – health/welfare

Andrews, Tresa

The importance of collaborative theory in older people's services.

Journal of integrated care 17(2), April 2009, 35-40

This article shows how Southwark and Salford have attempted to bring alive government guidance by developing a mental health resource for those working at the intersection with integrated mainstream care.

Callisaya, Michele L. [et al.]

A population-based study of sensorimotor factors affecting gait in older people.

Age and ageing 38(3), May 2009, 290-295

The study of factors associated with age-related gait decline may assist in developing methods to preserve mobility in older persons.

Gustafsson, Björn

The welfare of Sweden's old-age pensioners in times of bust and boom from 1990.

Ageing & society 29(4), May 2009, 539-561

This study analyses the development of the economic wellbeing of Swedes aged 65 years and older from 1990. This period was characterised by Sweden's deepest and most prolonged recession since the Great Depression, but was followed by buoyant growth.

Parkinson's disease

Halpern, Casey H. [et al.]

Cognition following bilateral deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery of the subthalamic nucleus for Parkinson's disease.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry 24(5), May 2009, 443-451

This review sought to provide a clearer understanding of the various cognitive sequelae of bilateral subthalamic nucleus DBS while taking into account corresponding neuroanatomy and potential confounding variables.

Person-centred care

Ashley, Peter

Valuing the contribution of people with dementia.

The journal of dementia care 17(3), May/June 2009, 16, 18-19

The authors talk about how we can ensure that the contribution of people with dementia is valued in a way that promotes, rather than discourages, their participation.

Müller-Hergl, Christian

Accept people as they are.

The journal of dementia care 17(3), May/June 2009, 15

The author shares his concerns about the emphasis on positive emotions in dementia care.

Planning

Jacobs, Sally

Modernising social care services for older people : scoping the United Kingdom evidence base.

Ageing & society 29(4), May 2009, 497-538

The authors conducted a systematic review of peer-reviewed UK research literature published from 1990 to 2001. This paper provides an overview of the literature and presents substantive findings relating to integration, independence and individuals' needs.

Research

Jagger, Carol

The effect of dementia trends and treatments on longevity and disability : a simulation model based on the MRC Cognitive Function and Ageing Study (MRC CFAS).

Age and ageing 38(3), May 2009, 319-325

This study aimed to estimate the size of the disabled population over the next 20 years and explore the impact of treatments that delay onset of cognitive impairment and associated disability.

Muniz-Terrera, Graciela [et al.]

Education and trajectories of cognitive decline over 9 years in very old people : methods and risk analysis.

Age and ageing 38(3), May 2009, 277-282

The authors examined cognitive trajectories in a population-based cohort study in Cambridge, UK, of people aged 75 and over.

Schoenmakers, Birgitte [et al.]

The process of definitive institutionalisation of community dwelling demented vs non demented elderly : data obtained from a network of sentinel general practitioners.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry 24(5), May 2009, 523-531

This study aimed to investigate the differences between characteristics of community dwelling demented and non demented elderly and their caregivers at the moment of definitive institutionalisation.

Residential care

Darton, Robin

The role of extra care housing in supporting people with dementia : early findings from the PSSRU evaluation of extra care housing.

Journal of care services management 3(3), April-June 2009, 284-294

This paper draws on information collected from 15 extra care schemes opened during 2006-07, and a recent comparable study of residents admitted to care homes providing personal care.

Beer, Christopher [et al.]

Rating the quality of life of people with dementia living in residential care facilities.

Age and ageing 38(3), May 2009, 343-346

Research letter. The authors aimed to determine the feasibility and inter-rater reliability of assessment of quality of life, using the self-related QOL-AD administered by two interviewers.

Respite care

Taylor, Richard

Who actually cares about respite care?

Alzheimer's care today 10(2), April-June 2009, 61-62

A person with dementia gives his views on respite care and how it could better serve people with dementia.

Sensory impairment

Lawrence, Vanessa and Murray, Joanna

Promoting independent living among people with dementia and sight loss.

Journal of care services management 3(3), April-June 2009, 261-274

This paper presents findings from the first qualitative research project to explore the experiences and needs of older adults with concurrent sight loss and dementia.

Seewoodhary. R.

Treatment and management of ocular conditions in older people.

Nursing standard 23(35), May 6-12 2009, 48-56

This article provides an overview of eye disorders common in old age, focusing on the nurse's role in the prevention and treatment of these conditions, and the provision of patient support and education.

Thetford, Clare [et al.]

The changing needs of people with sight loss.

London : Thomas Pocklington Trust, 2009.

This publication summarises findings from a research study examining the long-term dynamics of the support needs associated with sight loss and explore ways in which health and social services could be tailored to better meet these needs.

Service examples

Adeniji, David

Floating support service for people with dementia or memory problems.

Journal of care services management 3(3), April-June 2009, 223-226

This paper describes a housing-related floating support service, delivered by Rethink, a mental health charity, for people with dementia and memory problems in Somerset, Bournemouth and Poole.

Burns, Jackie [et al.]

Rowan Court : a specialist extra care dementia scheme in Hampshire.

Journal of care services management 3(3), April-June 2009, 275-283

This paper focuses on the work of Rowan Court in providing a specialist service for people with dementia in Eastleigh.

Hough, Jemma and Brims, Sylvia

Partnership working for a healthy ageing café.

Journal of care services management 3(3), April-June 2009, 244-246

This paper describes the partnership between a branch of the Alzheimer's Society and a housing association which resulted in the provision of a weekly service for people with dementia and their carers, called the Healthy Ageing Café.

Sexuality

Braudy Harris, Phyllis

Intimacy, sexuality, and early-stage dementia : the changing marital relationship.

Alzheimer's care today 10(2), April-June 2009, 63-77

When one's marital partner receives a diagnosis of dementia, it has major ramifications for a couple. This qualitative study looked at various issues concerning sexuality and dementia.

Spirituality

Feldman, Howard H. [et al.]

Goodall, Margaret A.

The evaluation of spiritual care in a dementia care setting.

Dementia 8(2), May 2009, 167-183

This paper offers a model of evaluation of spiritual care by using reflection, relationship and restoration through observing the virtues describes in the Biblical concept of 'fruit of the spirit'.

Staff training

Sheard, David

Hearing the voice of those who work in dementia care.

The journal of dementia care 17(3), May/June 2009, 18-19

The author argues that person-centred principles must be applied to staff working in dementia care.

To request items from Dementia Now

Books and articles listed in this Dementia Now are available on request from DSDC Library, for loan or as photocopies, respectively. To make a request, please complete the copyright and loans form.

Library members can request book loans and article photocopies online by logging on to the Shelcat catalogue. To register as a library member, please download and sign the registration form

Both forms are here <http://www.dementia.stir.ac.uk/information.asp?tab=61>
Please print out and complete with your request details and signature, and return to:

Library & Information Service
Dementia Services Development Centre
Iris Murdoch Building
University of Stirling
FK9 4LA
01786 467740