

# Focus on dementia . . .



University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay Trust (UHMBT) has, with the appointment of Dianne Smith as Dementia Matron, committed itself to supporting training in the management of patients with dementia who present in many ways and in different clinical environments. Her brief is the provision of a skilled workforce that recognises the impact of the disease, which cannot be ignored these days in any aspect of adult acute services. Prior to taking up the role, Dianne was ward manager of ward 20 (elderly medicine) at Royal Lancaster Infirmary (RLI).



Dianne is keen to promote the 'Butterfly Scheme' and the 'Forget Me Not' Passport of Care.

The Butterfly Scheme allows people with memory impairment to request a specific form of personalised care in hospital. It takes the form of a 'butterfly' marker on the patient casenotes that alerts staff to the fact that a person has a cognitive problem and may need extra support and care with prescribing.

Dianne has designed and introduced the Forget Me Not Passport of Care for use within the trust. It is a toolkit for individualised care needs which is completed with the help of families and carers. It will be of benefit for patients with disability who struggle to express their needs in the hospital environment.

The accompanying article from Dr and Dr Shukla, respectively old-age psychiatrist and pharmacist, outlines for the general reader the bare bones of this terrible disease, as well as some modern management techniques. The editor recommends that readers note the accompanying list of drugs widely used in the acute hospital setting, but with potential serious side effects on cognition, and familiarise themselves with modern drug treatments which need to be continued in hospital.

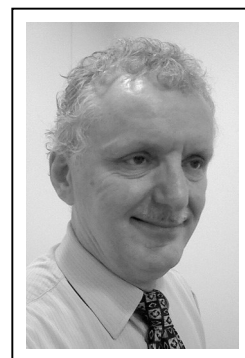
## OUR RESPONSE TO THE DEMENTIA CHALLENGE . . .

Our corner of the healthcare map is currently experiencing one of the biggest increases in population growth in the North West, and given the area's popularity as a retirement location the demographic profile shows increases in older people. The Office for National Statistics predicts that the number of people in the Morecambe Bay area aged over 75 will increase from 26,575 in 2011 to 31,253 in 2018. That's an increase of around 12% in an age group that accounts for over 60% of all NHS resources.

In order to develop improvements in the efficiency of our care services, the Efficient Patient Care Group was established in early 2013 as a multidisciplinary team led by the Chief Operating Officer. The group is currently developing an operational framework aimed at improving the efficiency of care for older people, and dementia care has been prioritised as a key area for development. The latest CHKS analysis report found that dementia patients are up to 20% more likely to die in hospital and three times more likely to have a fall in hospital than comparable patient groups.<sup>(1)</sup> An increased mortality rate is also coupled with increased length of stay in hospital, which is on average a quarter longer than for those without dementia.

The Efficient Patient Care Group includes input from clinical directors, nurses, AHPs, and divisional managers.

John Butterworth is programme lead for the current group of projects under the Efficient Patient Care Group banner and the role comes with a cross Bay brief which involves working with clinical and corporate departments. The development of the UHMBT Elderly Care Framework is John's key focus at the moment. John's interest in the care of older people stems from an earlier life as a theatre manager and the challenges of coordinating the multiple needs of older people with both urgent and longer term conditions.



Specific plans and schedules for improved dementia care are being developed to begin in April on ward 37 at RLI. These will include assessments within 24 hours of admission of all patients aged over 75 and appropriate referral to community-based services. John Butterworth and Dianne Smith will coordinate these projects. General enquires about the Efficient Patient Care Group work on the older peoples framework can be made at [Efficient.Care@mbht.nhs.uk](mailto:Efficient.Care@mbht.nhs.uk) and Dianne can be contacted for further information on dementia and delirium at [dianne.smith@mbht.nhs.uk](mailto:dianne.smith@mbht.nhs.uk) or telephone 07805 895862.



## REFERENCE

1. [www.chks.co.uk](http://www.chks.co.uk) An economic analysis of the excess costs for acute care for patients with dementia. December 2013