

## Unit 13: Dementia Awareness

Unit code:	DEM 201
Unit reference number:	J/601/2874
QCF level:	2
Credit value:	2
Guided learning hours:	17

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### Unit summary

The aim of the unit is to enable learners to gain knowledge of what dementia is, the different forms of dementia and how others can have an impact on the individual with dementia.

**Learners taking the Dementia pathway within the Edexcel Level 2 Diploma in Health and Social Care (Adults) for England (QCF) must take this unit.**

### Assessment requirements

This unit must be assessed in accordance with Skills for Care and Development's QCF Assessment Principles.

### Assessment methodology

Learners can enter the types of evidence they are presenting for assessment and the submission date against each assessment criterion. Alternatively, centre documentation should be used to record this information.

## Content

### 1 Understand what dementia is

*Dementia: definitions*; characteristics; effects on key functions of the brain eg processing information, language, memory, ability to make sound judgements; similarities between the appearance of dementia and depression, delirium and age-related memory impairment eg mild cognitive impairment, apathy, confusion, poor memory, low concentration

### 2 Understand key features of the theoretical models of dementia

*Social model*: interaction of biological and social factors; importance of communities and social networks; role of socio-economic factors, political factors; recognition of personhood; effects of empowerment

*Medical model*: expert control; dependency upon experts; denial of personhood; not recognising the social context, distinction between normal and pathological; individualisation of behaviours; blaming the individual; treatment of the illness

*Dementia as a disability*: dignity of the individual; promotion and protection of rights; needs-led assessment; advocacy; recognition of independent mental capacity; minimisation of potential barriers to support; issues of safeguarding

### 3 Know the most common types of dementia and their causes

*Alzheimer's disease*: causes eg changes in chemistry and structure of the brain, death of brain cells; signs and symptoms eg memory loss related to recent events, familiar faces; confusion about the time of day, familiar objects and places, finding the right word

*Lewy body dementia*: causes eg development of lewy bodies inside the nerve cells, degeneration of brain tissue; signs and symptoms eg memory loss, problem-solving, confusion and delirium, severe psychotic symptoms such as persistent hallucinations

*Vascular dementia*: causes eg effects of a stroke, effects of a series of small strokes; signs and symptoms eg memory loss, dizziness, slurred speech, effects on movement, rapid, shuffling steps, leg or arm weakness, loss of bowel and bladder control

*Fronto-temporal dementia*: causes eg accumulation of proteins, development of pick bodies; signs and symptoms eg lack of insight, inability to empathise, changing or inappropriate behaviour, loss of inhibitions, development of compulsive rituals

*Risk factors:* age-related eg higher blood pressure, changes to nerve cells, DNA and cell structure, weakness of natural repair mechanisms; genetics; gender differences in the prevalence of different types; medical history eg Down's syndrome, HIV status, Multiple Sclerosis; environmental/lifestyle factors eg excess alcohol, lack of exercise, exposure to aluminium and other metals, inappropriate diet; prevalence rates of different types of dementia

#### **4 Understand factors relating to an individual's experience of dementia**

*Factors which affect an individual's experience of dementia:* symptoms; 'normal' effects of ageing eg loss of hearing, effects on visual acuity, memory loss; levels of ability and disability due to dementia or other conditions; environmental factors eg adaptations to the living space, geographical location; social networks, support of friends and family; financial issues; loss of control; tension between rights and risks; a person-centred approach; impact of discrimination; role of voluntary agencies eg The Alzheimer's Society, Dementia UK; role of statutory services eg speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, pharmacists, nurses, psychologists, admiral nurses, community psychiatric nurses, care workers, GPs; others eg colleagues, managers; informal carers;

*Behaviour of others:* eg care workers, colleagues, managers, social workers, occupational therapists, GP, speech and language therapist, physiotherapists, pharmacist, nurse, psychologist, admiral nurses, independent mental capacity advocates, community psychiatric nurses, dementia care advisers, advocates, support groups

## Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria	Evidence type	Portfolio reference	Date
1 Understand what dementia is	1.1 explain what is meant by the term 'dementia' 1.2 describe the key functions of the brain that are - affected by dementia 1.3 explain why depression, delirium and age-related memory impairment may be mistaken for dementia			
2 Understand key features of the theoretical models of dementia	2.1 outline the medical model of dementia 2.2 outline the social model of dementia 2.3 explain why dementia should be viewed as a disability			

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria	Evidence type	Portfolio reference	Date
3 Know the most common types of dementia and their causes	3.1 list the most common causes of dementia 3.2 describe the likely signs and symptoms of the most common causes of dementia 3.3 outline the risk factors for the most common causes of dementia 3.4 identify prevalence rates for different types of dementia			
4 Understand factors relating to an individual's experience of dementia	4.1 describe how different individuals may experience living with dementia depending on age, type of dementia, and level of ability and disability 4.2 outline the impact that the attitudes and behaviours of others may have on an individual with dementia			

Learner name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Learner signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Assessor signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Internal verifier signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(if sampled)*