

Each group has designed and shaped:

- a compelling narrative (story) of why people in this group should take action
- the specific actions that we are calling on people in this group to take
- the 'themes' that people in this group might think about in order to fulfil the commitment
- identified and signposted the specific resources that are available to help people in this group to take action
- how to get other people involved and signed up for the call to action
- a strategy for putting their commitment into practice
- a mechanism by which to measure progress.

How you can get involved

If you are prepared to commit to taking action NOW to change this unacceptable situation then please join one of our 8 commitment groups. Please email

C2Adementia@institute.nhs.uk and we will link you to the relevant group lead who will be in touch to discuss the role that you can play in supporting this urgent and important work.

If you would like to find out more:

www.institute.nhs.uk/dementiac2a

Please join us - we look forward to welcoming you to this call to action!



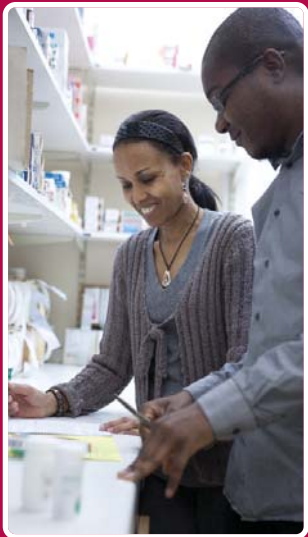
"This is something I really want to see changed."

*Dr Alistair Burns,
National Clinical
Director for
Dementia*

The Right Prescription: a call to action on the use of antipsychotic drugs for people with dementia



"It is good medical practice to build in a system that regularly reviews all medicines prescribed for people with dementia. If they are on antipsychotics review is essential."
*Dr Leo Clarke, GP,
Ide Lane Surgery,
Alphington*



The **unacceptable** situation facing thousands of people across England who are living with dementia is that they may be taking antipsychotic medication that they do not need and that could possibly harm them. Evidence tells us that although there are clinical situations where a time limited prescription of antipsychotic drugs may be appropriate, often antipsychotic drugs are overprescribed. There is an unambiguous case for a substantial reduction in their use alongside the wider adoption of alternative interventions which we know can help to maximise the quality of life for people with dementia and their carers as part of a comprehensive package of care.

We have launched a call to action to work together in a way that that will unite us in our common cause to improve the quality of life of people with dementia and their carers by reducing the inappropriate use of antipsychotics for these people. We need to do this urgently.

Help us to achieve our goal

Our goal is ambitious – it is that **by 31st March 2012** all people with dementia who are receiving antipsychotic drugs will have undergone a clinical review to ensure that if they are receiving these drugs they are doing so appropriately and that alternatives to their prescription have been considered and a shared decision has been agreed regarding their future care.

"From finding out all we can about the people who live with us, staff learn other approaches to soothe, calm or occupy individuals who may become distressed. This could be anything from music to gardening."

*Paul Courtney,
General Manager,
Lucerne House
Care Centre,
Alphington*

Join us to effect real and measurable change

One of the biggest challenges we face is that, although there is a lot of activity and energy for change, unless that energy is directly translated into appropriate prescribing and appropriate review of medications, it will count for nothing.

To make this happen, on June 9th, 2011 we launched a nationwide 'call to action'.

We have identified the following eight groups who we know are interested in working together to achieve this goal.

- People with dementia and their carers & voluntary sector and advocacy groups (local and national)
- Leaders of care homes
- General practitioners and primary care teams
- Psychiatrists and mental health teams
- Pharmacists
- Hospital doctors and multidisciplinary teams
- Commissioners of health and social care services
- Medical and nursing directors of acute and foundation trusts

A specific commitment has been developed for each group to enable everyone to play their part to achieve the overall goal of ensuring that people with dementia who are taking antipsychotics have a clinical review by March 31st 2012.