

# Palliative Care Guidelines in Dementia

## Quick Reference Guide

Advancing Dementia

Diagnosing dementia can be challenging, considering the different dementia syndromes (see page 7 of full guidelines)

Loss of capacity can occur early following diagnosis or prior to this so it is important to consider early assessment of capacity (p 48) and advance care planning (p 56)

Ongoing holistic assessment and a person-centred approach to care are essential (p 13)

Management of cognitive and non-cognitive symptoms can be challenging (p 24) and some medications should be avoided if possible in certain specific types of dementia (p 33)

Assessment of social care needs and understanding of the individual's entitlement in light of the Care Act 2014 are very important (p 39)

Carers need access to ongoing support (p 40) and need to be given information about local services which they may find helpful to maintain their own health and wellbeing (p 84)

Clinically assisted hydration/ nutrition (p 59), treatment of infection (p 69) and goals of care can be particularly challenging issues in patients with dementia

As the patient deteriorates it is important to rationalise medication and discontinue non-essential drugs, reducing the number and frequency to the minimum needed for comfort (p 71)

Identifying dying can be difficult in people with dementia (p 67)

The 5 key priorities for care of the dying patient is a framework for holistic care of the patient in the final days and hours of life and those important to them (p 75)

Carers should be able to access the appropriate level of bereavement support to meet their needs (p 82)

Good communication is important throughout