

**Oral health and dementia:
Interactive dementia training for the Dental Team
13th May 2020**

In future, dental teams will be providing oral healthcare to a greater proportion of older patients with a range of complex needs including dementia. The training day is designed to inform members of the dental team about how to provide high quality, person-centred dental care to meet the oral health needs of an ageing population.

Aims:

The overall aim is aligned with Government health policy that enables older people to remain independent for longer by providing preventative oral healthcare and access to treatment that is appropriate for the individual.

Objectives:

- To understand what is meant by the term dementia.
 - The different types and their potential impact on dental treatment
 - The Dementia Care Pathway
 - The risk factors and prevention
- To understand ethico-legal perspectives and the legal framework for dementia
 - The Mental Capacity Act and safeguarding for people with dementia
- To gain insight into the viewpoint of someone living with dementia and the issues relating to providing their dental care.
- Discover help and tips on how to treat people with dementia including modification of the practice environment and patient management.
 - Pragmatic treatment planning
 - Communication
 - Prevention and mouth care
 - Making your practice more dementia friendly
- Provide an update of existing and planned programmes relating to oral health and dementia, other dementia training resources and how to access them.
 - Further training, including online resources in-line with the Dementia Skills Training Framework
 - The CQC Smiling Matters report
 - Flexible commissioning models

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the training participants should be able to:

- Demonstrate recognition of the needs of older people including those with dementia so as to provide safe, dignified and compassionate care.
- Make adjustments to practice to support older people including those with dementia by assisting the development of supportive care environments.

GDC Development Outcomes: A, B, C and D

Development Outcome
A. Effective communication with patients, the dental team and others across dentistry, including when obtaining consent, dealing with complaints, and raising concerns when patients are at risk;
B. Effective management of self and effective management of others or effective work with others in the dental team, in the interests of patients at all times; providing constructive leadership where appropriate;
C. Maintenance and development of knowledge and skill within your field of practice;
D. Maintenance of skills, behaviours and attitudes which maintain patient confidence in you and the dental profession and put patients' interests first.

Katy Kerr MSc BDS DDPH RCS (Eng.) PGCertCE, Level 7 Award in Leadership Coaching and Mentoring
Regional Dental Adviser for Workforce Transformation and Continuing Registration, Health Education Thames Valley and Wessex.

Katy was a Senior Dental Officer with Berkshire Community Dental Service and cared for her mother with Lewy body dementia. She was the project lead for the dementia awareness film, “The Appointment” and produced the supporting resources which have been widely adopted. Katy currently chairs the Dementia Friendly Dentistry Group which started with the intention to collate the dental training resources available across the country. To facilitate this, she recently worked with the Alzheimer’s Society to add Dentists to their professional pages on their website. She represents dentistry on the Dementia Workforce Advisory Group, introducing oral health into the refreshed Dementia Core Training Framework for all care workers.

She is passionate about improving access for people with dementia to visit the dentist, championing change in funding via a national working group on flexible commissioning and one convened to develop a commissioning standard for vulnerable adults. She has recently undertaken a project working with the London Memory Service Network across the 32 London Boroughs in collaboration with NHSE via the LDN, LDC and PHE. To provide a leaflet at the point of diagnosis to encourage people with dementia to visit the dentist, so that they have dental treatment whilst still in the early stages of the disease. She is working to support the establishment of dementia friendly dental care environments and has developed an audit tool to facilitate this.

In her role for HEE, Katy is working to ensure that all members of the team receive training in dementia to develop skills in caring for people with dementia and gain a greater understanding of the impacts of the disease. To enable newly qualified practitioners to gain confidence She has developed training as part of the Dental Foundation curriculum in Thames Valley and Wessex and instigated the community project which involves the Foundation Dentist and Therapists.

She has trained extensively about the impact of poor oral health for older people in residential and hospital settings, she was a member of the External Expert Advisory Group for the recent CQC report, Smiling Matters, on oral health in care homes and is an active member of the Hydration Network. She generated the content for the E-learning package, Improving Mouth Care, which is free to access on E-learning for Health and E-Den. This resource has been designed to give health and care staff advice and guidance to enable them to provide evidenced based mouth care for their patients and clients including those with dementia. Several Local Authorities now host this on their training platforms to make it accessible to their care staff.