

Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Syllabus

Chapter 1 Overview of Alzheimer's Disease & Dementia: Introduction, Diagnosis, Treatment •

This chapter is designed to introduce the caregiver to the definition of dementia and an overview of some of the prevalent diseases that cause dementia. • There is a discussion of diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis. •

Memory

Discuss also includes risk factors, genetic probability, and the need for more research and public awareness.

Chapter 2 Communications & Feelings •

Focus the importance of effective communication when interacting with a client that suffers from the symptoms of dementia. • Explores the importance of both verbal and non-verbal communications • Discuss importance of empathy, sensitivity, and awareness of the client especially during the stages where they have lost their verbal communication skills.

Chapter 3 Depression and Repetitive Expressions •

This chapter explores the prevalence of depression in the dementia population. • Discussion also includes treatment approaches/intervention in lieu of medications. • This presentation explains the importance of detailed assessment to rule out other contributions to one's cognition such as substance abuse/misuse and reversible cognitive conditions. • Discuss repetitive behaviors

Chapter 4 Delusions, Hallucinations, Hoarding & Wandering •

This chapter discusses aggressive behaviors and catastrophic reactions, possible causes for them and appropriate interventions

- This chapter encourages facilities to provide non-violent self-protection training for staff to ensure safety and to reduce the risk of injuries to all involved. •

Chapter 5 This chapter focuses on intimacy and sexuality in the elder population, offering insights to encourage sensitivity, respect, and appropriate interventions when faced with caregiving scenarios of intimate nature.

Chapter 6 -Personal Care: Pain, Nutrition, Bathing, Dressing, Toileting, Falls, & Sleep Disturbances •

This chapter discusses the role of one's involvement in assessing pain of the cognitively impaired client. • Interventions and considerations for enhancing nutrition and the overall dining experience are addressed. • Effective care techniques are covered regarding bathing, dressing, toileting, and fall prevention.

Chapter 7 Activities • This chapter considers parallel programming to ensure that varied activities are facilitated to meet all levels of cognition in the facility. •

Explains the importance of offering activities that reflect one's personal interests, hobbies, and work history. • This chapter reinforces that programs should be stress oriented, failure free, purposeful and meaningful.

Chapter 8 Environment • This chapter explains the importance of environmental modification to promote the optimal therapeutic environment for those who suffer with dementia and related disorders.

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In addition, environmental modifications as well as outdoor strategies, interventions while considering fire and safety regulations.

Chapter 9 Staff and Family Support & Abuse and Neglect Prevention •

This chapter examines the needs of the family and our professional role as a support resource with sensitivity to the needs of the resident and concerns of the family.

Chapter 10 Cultural Diversity and Cultural Competence • Cultural Competence