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Person-centred Care and The Lifestyle Interview Tool[®]: Their effectiveness in improving care for patients with Dementia

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Introduction: Patients with Dementia may have difficulty articulating their day-to-day routines. The Lifestyle Interview Tool[®] consisting of patient's life roles, habits, routines and time use was developed and trialled with the aim of improving patient care by continuing patient's routines during hospitalisation.

Objectives: To show the effectiveness of the use of The Lifestyle Interview Tool[®] and person-centred care in improving patient care for patients with Dementia

Description: More than 150 patients in the Evaluation and Management ward had been interviewed for a period of two years by trained Occupational Therapists and Allied Health Assistants using The Lifestyle Interview Tool[®]. Information gathered re: patient's Life Roles, Routines, Habits and Time Use was then integrated into the ward as time and environments permitted. The trial of the tool included a Staff Perception questionnaire on its administration and staff perceived outcomes of the tool.

Discussion: Improvement of tool was done from results of Staff Perception Survey on the administration of the tool. Issues re: cultural change - shifting staff's task-oriented care to person-centred care were encountered. Only one ward openly accepted to the 'ideal' model of care. (+) patient and carer response towards care was gathered.

Conclusion: Staff observed slight to significant improvement in patient participation in therapy, self-care, social participation, functional independence, and temperament. This tool has been modified according to staff feedback and in consultation with Monash University and Peninsula Health-OT department.

Contribution to the practice: Application of tool has been used in the Evaluation and Management ward and is now being applied in the acute setting and residential care.