

Vol 5 no 8
November 2008
ISSN 1743-9620

Human Rights is the featured topic in this issue

[Introduction](#)

[Web resources on Human Rights](#)

[Reading list on Human Rights](#)

Current Awareness

[News stories on Dementia](#)

[New books and articles in the DSDC library](#)

Consent, capacity and human rights in dementia care

Date: 18th February 2009

Event: 1 day conference

Venue: Europa Hotel, Belfast

Cost: £120 (A limited number of reduced rate places are available for user groups and carers, priced at £55 per delegate)

This essential one-day conference will provide delegates with the opportunity to examine and discuss key aspects of dementia care. It will address consent, capacity and human rights from European, national and regional perspectives. The conference will be extremely relevant to a broad audience, including medical, clinical, legal and justice professionals and service providers.

[Further details are available from our website](#)
[Download flyer & booking form](#)



In the headlines

Distractions 'hit old-age memory'

Mental slowing down in old age can be blamed partly on being more easily distracted, research suggests.

[BBC News Online 26 November 2008](#)

Care 'failing the terminally ill'

Terminally ill people and their families are being let down by failings in end of life care, according to a watchdog. The National Audit Office said while most people wanted to die at home, the majority ended their days in hospital.

[BBC News Online 26 November 2008](#)

Social care ratings mask problems

Record-high scores for adult social services are being called into question as councils are limiting the people who can get access to them. The Commission for Social Care Inspection showed services had improved for the sixth year in a row. But the watchdog and campaigners said they were concerned that councils were restricting who was eligible to use services such as home care.

[BBC News Online 27 November 2008](#)

Author heading dementia campaign

Author Terry Pratchett has handed in a petition to 10 Downing Street calling for an urgent increase in funds for dementia research. The petition, which has been signed by 20,000 people, describes current level of funding as "appalling".

[BBC News Online 27 November 2008](#)



The Dementia Services
Development Centre



UNIVERSITY OF
STIRLING

Human Rights

Introduction

Human Rights and Dementia Care - are you in on the Act?

Can you believe it is 10 years since the Human Rights Act (1998) was put in place? It finally came into force in UK domestic law on the 2nd of October 2000. So how are we doing with it now? How well versed are we and how well are we making this law work **for** people with dementia?

Sadly, the evidence would suggest that there is much to be done. The Joint Committee on Human Rights inquiry has identified a significant range of issues on the treatment of older people in hospital and residential care. Given that many older people in care homes and residential care have some form of dementia, we can be certain that these issues affect them.

Abuses of the human rights of older people, and people with dementia, may come in many forms, such as physical, sexual, or financial abuse. In some cases the prescription of medication, and in particular mis-prescribing of psycho-tropic medication is of concern. Restraint of people with dementia, either by physical means, or with medication can cause enormous distress to the person with dementia. Neglect is probably the single biggest issue.

So what do we need to make ourselves aware of? How can we help?

Probably the most important thing we can do is to make ourselves aware of **how** breaches of the Human Rights Act are manifest in day to day practice. Many breaches will not be dramatic examples of what we know to be a crime; the person being physically, sexually or financially abused. It is critical that we make ourselves aware, and that we galvanise ourselves to do better, responding pro-actively.

In some ways the big dramatic stories are clear-cut and in our awareness, at least most of the time. More often we will recognise them and know what to do, where to look for support and we will act. But there are other subtle things we need to know too. Breaches of the human rights of older people will occur because of things which we are less aware of; such as behaviours and norms which are custom and practice. For example, many practitioners fail to question the mis-prescribing of psychotropic drugs, particularly in the context of behavioural symptoms, but would never consider this behaviour as evidence, perhaps, of an unmet need for pain relief. In other cases, for example in acute care settings, if staff do not understand that someone with dementia may need extra help to open those plastic food containers, and be encouraged to drink up and to eat well, they may fail to make sure basic nutrition and hydration needs are met, and the person with dementia is neglected.

Once we become aware, we are empowered to do something about promoting best practice, and ensuring that the voices of people with dementia are heard, and above all, that the most vulnerable are protected, not neglected.

Maria McManus

Associate Director, Dementia Services Development Centre - Northern Ireland

Human Rights

Web Resources

Your human rights – a guide for older people

http://www.bih.org.uk/sites/default/files/bihr_older-people_guide.pdf

British Institute of Human Rights

The human rights of those in care

<http://www.cherieblair.org/speeches/2007/11/keynote-speech-to-the-national.html>

Cherie Blair

Social care as an equality and human rights issue

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/newsandcomment/speeches/Pages/socialcareequalityandhumanrightsissue.aspx>

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Age

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/yourrights/equalityanddiscrimination/age/Pages/Age.aspx>

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Human rights and aged persons

<http://www.pdhre.org/rights/aged.html>

The People's Movement for Human Rights Learning

Rights and legal protection policy

<http://www.alzscot.org/pages/about/rightsandlegalprotectionpolicy.htm>

Alzheimer Scotland

Human rights

<http://policy.helptheaged.org.uk/policy/AgeEquality/HumanRights/default.htm>

Help the Aged

Independent living and the Human Rights Act 1998

http://83.137.212.42/sitearchive/DRC/docs/10_675_ILHRA-ExSum-ok.doc

Disability Rights Commission

Rights for real

http://www.ageconcern.org.uk/AgeConcern/Documents/0406_Rights_for_Real_Report.pdf

Age Concern

The Human Rights Act and older people

http://policy.helptheaged.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/94920D4D-FD1E-4640-9745-AA634C600E0F/0/hr_human_rights_act_older_people_01_05.pdf

Help the Aged

Human rights and older people

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/io/research/4101.pdf>

Northern Ireland Assembly

The mark of a noble society: human rights and older people

http://www.helpage.org/Resources/Briefings/main_content/1118335664-0-4/Markofanoble.PDF

HelpAge International

Older people and human rights

http://www.bih.org.uk/sites/default/files/older_people_briefing.pdf

British Institute of Human Rights

Human Rights

Topic Reading List

James, Lucy

Taking responsibility for human rights : a gap in the law?

Journal of care services management 3(1), October-December 2008, 83-95

This paper considers the purpose of the Human Rights Act 1998 and its application to private care providers.

Mandelstam, Michael

Community care practice and the law / Michael Mandelstam. 4th ed.

London ; Philadelphia : Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2009.

The fourth edition of this book has been fully updated to reflect the rapid and continuing legal, policy and practice changes affecting community care.

Dow, John

Mental Health Act 2007.

Journal of integrated care 16(2), April 2008, 33-37

This article outlines key changes made to the Mental Health Act 1983, but will focus on the 'deprivation of liberty safeguards' which are inserted into the Mental Capacity Act 2005, sometimes referred to as 'Bournewood safeguards' after Bournewood Hospital, which was involved in a case where a man with severe learning disabilities was admitted under common law, and later found by the European Court of Human Rights to have been deprived of his liberty unlawfully.

Dow, John

What does the Human Rights Act add?

Journal of integrated care 16(4), August 2008, 19-21

Private care homes will become directly subject to the Human Rights Act, under new provisions in the Health and Social Care Bill. What difference will this make in practice?

James, Lucy

Taking responsibility for human rights : a gap in the law?

Journal of care services management 3(1), October-December 2008, 83-95

This paper considers the purpose of the Human Rights Act 1998 and its application to private care providers.

Bright, Les

Human rights in action.

Nursing older people 19(6), July 2007, 11

The author says a human rights based approach can improve health outcomes.

Creating an alternative future.

Stratford upon Avon : Disability Rights Commission, [2007?].

This document provides an overview of the Disability Agenda. The overall aim of the Disability Agenda is "a society where all disabled people can participate fully as human beings".

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/Documents/Disability/General_advice/DisabilityAgenda/FOCUS30.pdf

Great Britain House of Commons. Joint Committee on Human Rights .

The human rights of older people in healthcare. : volume 1 : report and formal minutes.

London : The Stationery Office, 2007.

In addition to its scrutiny of parliamentary Bills and policy documents for human rights applications, the Committee examines areas where human rights concerns arise, such as the treatment of older persons in health care. In this report, the Joint Committee on Human Rights examines how human rights principles can be applied to ensure that older people in hospitals and care homes are treated with greater dignity and respect.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt200607/jtselect/jtrights/156/156i.pdf>

Great Britain House of Commons. Joint Committee on Human Rights
The human rights of older people in healthcare. : volume 2 : oral and written evidence.
London : The Stationery Office, 2007.
Oral and written evidence on the report on the human rights of older people in health care.

Harwood, Rowan H., Bartlett, Peter and Stewart, Robert
Safeguarding the rights of patients who lack capacity in general hospitals.
Age and ageing 36(2), March 2007, 120-121
The UK government has published its intentions for England and Wales regarding the Bournemouth judgement. This concerns the many people who lack the capacity to consent to admission to hospitals or care homes, and who are, in effect, prevented from leaving, even when they do not object to remaining.

Elder abuse : what it is and how to stop it, advice for older people.
London : Help the Aged, 2007.

Elder abuse occurs when an older person is harmed, mistreated, exploited or neglected by someone they know and should be able to trust. Most abuse is a crime. It is the violation of someone's human or civil rights by any other person or people. No one has to put up with abuse. Help is available.

Hunter, Mark
Out of the public eye.
Community care (1684), August 2007, 16-17
Campaigners fear that the recent exemption of private care homes from the Human Rights Act will put vulnerable people at greater risk as councils contract out services.

Kendall-Raynor, Petra
Eviction of elderly is 'lawful' despite the Human Rights Act.
Nursing standard 21(45), July 2007, 14
The House of Lords has ruled that the law does not bar eviction of older people from private residential homes.

Mansfield, Sally
Dignity.
Nursing older people 19(9), November 2007, 14
Dignity is a human rights issue and should be the underlying principle for service delivery. All older people in care should be confident that their dignity will be respected. How can we ensure a more person-centred, dignified service is being offered to older people in inpatient settings?

Equalities and diversity strategy : executive summary.
London : Commission for Social Care Inspection, 2006.
The Commission for Social Care Inspection has developed an Equalities and Diversity Strategy which says how they will meet their duties under the Human Rights Act and current equal opportunities legislation.
http://www.csci.org.uk/pdf/equalities_summary_large_print.pdf

Equalities and diversity strategy.
London : Commission for Social Care Inspection, 2006.
The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) has developed an Equalities and Diversity Strategy which says how we are going to meet our duties under the Human Rights Act and current equal opportunities legislation.
http://www.csci.org.uk/pdf/equalities_full_tagged.pdf

Finnegan, Patricia and Clarke, Stephen
Read the rights act.
Community care (1563), March 2005, 34-35
Four years after the Human Rights Act 1998 came into force, research shows that organisations are still not aware of its duties particularly regarding people with learning difficulties.

Current Awareness

Dementia in the News

Ban on calling old patients love

Calling older patients "dearie" or "love" is set to be ruled out as offensive by new guidelines from the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

[BBC News Online 26 November 2008](#)

Ginkgo ineffective treatment against Alzheimer's and dementia, says study

The herb Ginkgo biloba does not reduce the progression of dementia or Alzheimer's disease, according to a study.

[Nursing Times 18 November 2008](#)

Don't keep pensioners alive indefinitely, says old people tsar Dame Joan Bakewell

Elderly people should not be kept alive indefinitely by technology, according to the Government's new "old people's tsar", Dame Joan Bakewell.

[Telegraph 17 November 2008](#)

Quick-witted octogenarians 'have unusual brains'

People who manage to stay razor sharp well into old age have brains that 'protect' them from dementia, scientists have discovered. They owe their quick wits to a lack of fibrous tangles which normally make an appearance in the brain late in life.

[Telegraph 16 November 2008](#)

Berries 'may help Alzheimer's'

Compounds in blackcurrants could reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease, food researchers have said.

[Channel 4 News 12 November 2008](#)

Rebranding dementia? This way madness lies

Whether dementia is a mental health problem or a physical illness is a complicated issue where philosophy and medicine meet. But there are three reasons why this matters enough to debate it.

[The Guardian 12 November 2008](#)

Wilson 'had Alzheimer's when PM'

An analysis of former Prime Minister Harold Wilson's speech patterns suggests he may have had early Alzheimer's disease in office.

[BBC News Online 10 November 2008](#)

Vitamin 'may be Alzheimer's aid'

A vitamin found in meat, fish and potatoes may help protect the brain from Alzheimer's disease - and even boost memory in healthy people. US researchers found vitamin B3 lowered levels of a protein linked to Alzheimer's damage in mice.

[BBC News Online 5 November 2008](#)

Binge-drinkers 'risking dementia'

Experts have warned that urgent action is needed to prevent Britain heading for a dementia epidemic caused by the nation's binge-drinking culture.

[BBC News Online 1 November 2008](#)

Fight dementia with a keen social life

New research shows that there is hope for people with dementia, the key is to keep up their social life.

[The Times 1 November 2008](#)

Current Awareness New Library Stock

Activities

Harmer, Barbara J.

What is meaningful activity for people with dementia living in care homes? : a comparison of the views of older people with dementia, staff and family carers.

Aging & mental health 12(5), September 2008, 548-558

Older people with dementia living in care homes often lack appropriate activities. Although homes are expected to offer a range of activities to meet residents' needs, little is known about what makes activities meaningful for people with dementia. This study explores the concept of meaningful activity, as defined by older people with dementia living in care homes, staff and family carers.

Acute care

Law, Emma

Delirium and dementia in acute hospitals : assessing the impact of RMN input.

Nursing older people 20(9), November 2008, 35-39

There is evidence that provision for the mental health needs of older people in acute hospitals is generally poor. This article describes a study undertaken over a nine-month period at Perth Royal Infirmary, a 317-bed district general hospital. The study sought to measure the impact of input from an RMN in an acute hospital setting and within a multidisciplinary liaison model.

Admiral nurses

Sarna, Raminder

Admiral nurses' role in a dementia carers' information programme.

Nursing older people 20(9), November 2008, 30-32

Admiral nurses support families and carers of those affected by dementia and the future provision of dementia care must take into account the needs of carers. This article describes the delivery of a carers' information programme, which aims to provide educational and emotional support to carers.

AIDS dementia

Kelly, Angela

Forgetting and the memory of forgetting.

Dementia

In death-driven narratives of AIDS, phenomenological losses experienced as a result of changes to memory with AIDS dementia remain uncharted. In this article, a relationship-based approach to memory is taken where memory is understood to play an important material and symbolic role in the lives of people with AIDS dementia and their relationships with significant others.

Alcohol

Balsa, Ana I. [et al.]

Alcohol consumption and health among elders.

The gerontologist 48(5), October 2008, 622-636

This article estimates the effects of alcohol consumption on self-reported overall health status, injuries, heart problems, emergency room use, and hospitalisations among persons older than the age of 65.

Alternative therapies

Landin, Julia, Frölich, Lutz and Schwartz, Stefan

Use of alternative therapies in patients with dementia and mild cognitive impairment : a prospective, controlled study.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry 23(11), November 2008, 1163-1165

This study examined the frequency and type of alternative therapies used in patients with dementia and mild cognitive impairment.

Assessment

Hodges, John R.

Cognitive assessment for clinicians.

Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2007.

There have been enormous advances over the last decade in our understanding of cognitive function, particularly aspects of memory, language and attention, but there have not so far been made accessible to clinicians. This book translates these advances in theory into clinical practice and provides a practical approach to cognitive valuation at the bedside, based on methods developed at the Cambridge clinic.

Behaviour

Joy, Helen

Going the extra mile in delivering health care for people living with dementia.

Journal of care services management 3(1), October-December 2008, 33-40

This paper explores the ways in which providers of care can better manage behaviours relating to dementia and increase the dignity, independence and quality of life for people living with the condition.

Care homes

Owen, Tom [et al.]

Better partnership between care homes and the NHS : findings from the My Home Life programme.

Journal of care services management 3(1), October-December 2008, 96-106

Partnership between healthcare and social services agencies has been a major theme of government policy for the last ten years. This paper draws on the learning from a joint event hosted by the Care Services Improvement Partnership and My Home Life programme which brought together a range of stakeholders to discuss how best to improve partnership working.

Ursell, Frank

Star ratings : threat or opportunity?

Journal of care services management 3(1), October-December 2008, 6-19

This paper outlines the way in which star ratings are awarded by the CSCI for a care provider, whether it is a care home, nursing home or domiciliary care provider, before going on to set out how providers can appeal against a star rating and, more importantly, the business consequences of a low star rating and how to address that situation.

Care planning

Butterworth, Cathy

Advance care planning : good for everyone?

The journal of dementia care 16(6), November/December 2008, 14-15

The author introduces a new guide to help care homes get to grips with Advance Care Planning.

Walker, Brenda

Making care plans work for everyone.

The journal of dementia care 16(6), November/December 2008, 26-29

Care plans are potentially the most important drivers of consistent quality care, but too often they are not read or used by staff. Keeping an accessible summary or action sheet in the person's bedroom may solve the problem.

Carers

Arksey, Hilary

Supporting working carers : do policies in England and The Netherlands reflect 'doulia rights'?

Health and social care in the community 16(6), December 2008, 649-657

The authors present the policies and experiences of carers from two countries that differ in type of welfare state, health and social care system and labour market context: England and The Netherlands. The aim was to compare English and Dutch policy measures for carers and examine their impact with evidence from two studies of people who combine work and care.

Tremont, Geoffrey [et al.]

Telephone-delivered psychosocial intervention reduces burden in dementia caregivers.

Dementia 7(4), November 2008, 503-520

The objective of this study was to examine the preliminary efficacy of Family Intervention: Telephone Tracking - Dementia (FITT-D), a multi-component intervention that is delivered in 23 telephone contacts over 12 months.

Continence

Urinary continence management in older people.

Harrow : RCN Publishing, 2008.

Bibliography Includes bibliography

This guide is designed for care staff dealing with older people who have bladder problems.

Costs

The dementia tax : charging people with dementia for inadequate care : the evidence for change.

London : Alzheimer's Society, 2008.

This report describes the types of services people are currently receiving in their homes and in care home and how much people are contributing financially towards the costs of care.

Depression

Choi, Namkee G.

Depression in older nursing home residents : the influence of nursing home environmental stressors, coping and acceptance of group and individual therapy.

Aging & mental health 12(5), September 2008, 536-547

Based on in-depth interview with older nursing home residents, this study examined the residents' own understanding and perceptions of depressive symptoms, causes of their depression, their self-reported coping strategies, and their preferences for acceptable depression interventions.

Pearce, Lynne

Lifting the gloom.

Nursing standard 23(11), November 19-26 2008, 22-23

Depression in older people is frequently undiagnosed and untreated but there are steps nurses can take to help.

Design

Pollock, Richard

Shedding new light on design for dementia.

The journal of dementia care 16(6), November/December 2008, 22-23

Many dementia care facilities have lighting that was intended for younger people working in an office. The author explains the importance of lighting being tailored to residents' needs.

Snow, Tamsin

Planning the future of ward design.

Nursing standard 23(11), November 19-25 2008, 12-13

On the eve of a major study of single-room wards, the author asks who the phasing out of multiple-bed wards will affect care.

Drug Use

Boeri, Miriam Williams

Reconceptualising early and late onset : a life course analysis of older heroin users.

The gerontologist 48(5), October 2008, 637-645

The authors apply a life course perspective to gain a further understanding of older adult drug use, specifically contrasting early- and late-onset heroin users.

Diagnosis

De Lepeleire, J. [et al.]

The primary care diagnosis of dementia in Europe : an analysis using multidisciplinary, multinational expert groups.

Aging & mental health 12(5), September 2008, 568-576

This study aimed to explore the extent of variation in the detection of dementia in primary care across Europe, and the potential for the development of European guidelines.

Nunes, Paula V. [et al.]

CAMCOG as a screening tool for diagnosis of Mild Cognitive Impairment and Dementia in a Brazilian clinical sample of moderate to high education.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry 23(11), November 2008, 1127-1133

The CAMCOG is a brief neuropsychological battery designed to assess global cognitive function and ascertain the impairments that are required for the diagnosis of dementia. To date, the cut-off scores for mild cognitive impairment have not been determined. Given the need for an earlier diagnosis of mild dementia, new cut-off values are also necessary, taking into account cultural and educational effects.

Pagana, Kathleen D.

Diagnostic and laboratory tests used to diagnose Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's care today 9(4), October-December 2008, 263-266

Alzheimer's disease is the leading cause of dementia in western countries. The challenge for healthcare providers is to diagnose Alzheimer's disease after ruling out other causes of dementia. There are numerous advantages to early detection. Routine, optional and occasionally helpful diagnostic and laboratory tests are described.

Rondeau, Virginie [et al.]

General practice-based intervention for suspecting and detecting dementia in France : a cluster randomised controlled trial.

Dementia 7(4), November 2008, 433-450

The study evaluated the impact of a general practice-based intervention on patients in France aged 75 years and above with spontaneous memory complaints. The objective was to identify evocative signs of Alzheimer's disease through a cluster randomised controlled trial.

Diabetes

Rajakumaraswamy, N., Rajapakse, I.H. and Fernando, D.J.S.

The frequency of cognitive function in elderly Sri Lankans with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry 23(11), November 2008, 1205-1206

Type 2 diabetes mellitus increases risks of dementia. This association has not been investigated in the developing world. The authors studied the frequency of cognitive dysfunction among elderly Sri Lankans with type 2 diabetes.

Down's syndrome

Prasher, V.P. [et al.]

Significant effect of APOE Epsilon 4 Genotype on the risk of dementia in Alzheimer's disease and mortality in persons with Down Syndrome.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry 23(11), November 2008, 1134-1140 Virtually all adults with Down Syndrome (DS) have neuropathological manifestations of Dementia in Alzheimer's disease but not all develop clinical psychopathology. The effect of allelic variants of Apolipoprotein gene in development and progression of DAD and mortality in persons with DS is examined.

End of life

Andrews, June

Get me out of here.

Nursing older people 20(9), November 2008, 3

Editorial responding to the debate on euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Schroepfer, Tracy A.

Social relationships and their role in the consideration to hasten death.

The gerontologist 48(5), October 2008, 612-621

This study explored the quality and functioning of terminally ill elders' social relationships and their impact on elders' consideration to hasten death

Elder abuse

Andrews, June

Travesty of trust.

Nursing standard 23(7), 22-28 October 2008, 20-21

As part of a series on unthinkable nursing, the author analyses patient abuse and asks how nurses get away with it.

Great Britain. Commission for Social Care Inspection. .

Safeguarding adults : a study of the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard adults from abuse.

Newcastle : Commission for Social Care Inspection, 2008.

This study reports on arrangements in place in England to help prevent the abuse of adults and to support those who experience abuse.

[http://www.csci.org.uk/PDF/safeguard\[1\].pdf](http://www.csci.org.uk/PDF/safeguard[1].pdf)

Ethnic minorities

Bowen, Mary Elizabeth

Racial/ethnic differences in the relationship between the use of health care services and functional disability : the health and retirement study.

The gerontologist 48(5), October 2008, 659-667

The purpose of this study was to examine racial/ethnic differences in the relationship between functional disability and the use of health care services in a nationally representative sample of older adults by using the Andersen behavioural model of health services utilisation.

Falls

McGilton, Katherine [et al.]

Rehabilitating patients with dementia who have had a hip fracture : part 1 : behavioural symptoms that influence care.

Alzheimer's care today 9(4), October-December 2008, 233-244

Although evidence suggests that patients with cognitive impairment can benefit from rehabilitation, healthcare professionals (HCPs) on geriatric rehabilitation units often find that providing care to those patients following a hip fracture can be challenging. The objective of this study was to identify the behavioural symptoms that HCPs find difficult to manage in patients with dementia who have had a hip fracture and the strategies that they report using when patients exhibit these symptoms.

McGilton, Katherine [et al.]

Rehabilitating patients with dementia who have had a hip fracture : part II : cognitive symptoms that influence care.

Alzheimer's care today 9(4), October-December 2008, 245-252

The objective of this study was to identify the cognitive symptoms that healthcare professionals find difficult to manage in dementia patients, and the strategies that they report using when patients exhibit these symptoms.

Nazarko, Linda

Falls part 4 : prevention, assessment and intervention.

British journal of healthcare assistants 2(11), November 2008, 535-539

Assessment is a vitally important aspect of falls prevention. It enables staff to identify who is at risk of falling and why the person is falling. Staff can then work as a team to treat risk factors and reduce a person's risk of falling.

Frontotemporal dementia

Bristow, Matt [et al.]

Stress, distress and mucosal immunity in carers of a partner with fronto-temporal dementia. *Aging & mental health* 12(5), September 2008, 595-604

This study investigates the psychological and physiological impact of caring for a partner with fronto-temporal dementia.

Housing

Bäumker, Theresia

Costs and outcomes of an extra-care housing scheme in Bradford. / Theresia Bäumker, Ann Netten and Robin Darton.

York : Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2008.

The aim of this study was to assess as accurately as possible the comparative cost before and after residents moved to a new extra-care housing scheme in Bradford.

Human Rights

James, Lucy

Taking responsibility for human rights : a gap in the law?

Journal of care services management 3(1), October-December 2008, 83-95

This paper considers the purpose of the Human Rights Act 1998 and its application to private care providers.

Home Care

Sale, Anabel Unity

Home comforts.

Community care 1747, 13 November 2008, 32-33

Live-in care workers are keeping people out of residential home while offering more to clients than traditional domiciliary services.

Sawyer, Lucianne

The personalisation agenda : threats and opportunities for domiciliary care providers.

Journal of care services management 3(1), October-December 2008, 41-63

The personalisation agenda offers an opportunity to make home care (and other services) more responsive and flexible so that it is actually doing what people who use services want and need. This paper attempts to set out in more detail what personalisation will mean, how it may work, and discusses to what extent it is likely to happen.

Intergenerational relations

Sturdy, Deborah

Intergenerational bonding.

Nursing older people 20(9), November 2008, 14

A changing population profile is going to demand a greater understanding between young and old.

Intimate care

Manchester, Anne

The bigger picture.

Nursing standard 23(9), 5-11 November 2008, 20-22

A photo essay on care of older people that depicted the delivery of intimate care caused a furore when it was published in a New Zealand nursing journal. The authors describe the aftermath of the publication and what they have learned from the episode.

Internet resources

Hartung, Mary Kay

Selected internet resources on Alzheimer's disease for healthcare professionals and caregivers.

Alzheimer's care today 9(4), October-December 2008, 253-262

The purpose of this study is to investigate reliable, authoritative, up-to-date sources specific to Alzheimer's disease that are freely accessible via the internet for medical professionals, healthcare workers and lay caregivers.

Life story work

Burgess, Ruth

Life story project moves on.

The journal of dementia care 16(6), November/December 2008, 16-18

The author tells how a time-limited life story project worked hard to support staff to continue the work.

Long-term care

Polivka, Larry and Zayac, Helen

The aging network and managed long-term care.

The gerontologist 48(5), October 2008, 564-572

Since the early 1980s, service providers and area agencies on aging have developed a number of strengths as they built a community-based long-term-care system in most states.

The authors argue that the aging network should draw on these strengths to develop integrated long-term-care systems designed to shift the balance of state long-term-care systems from institutional to home-and community-based services.

Pain

Thompson, Amanda

Medicines and people with dementia : 2. Managing pain in people with dementia.

The journal of dementia care 16(6), November/December 2008, 19-20

Treating pain in people who have dementia can be complex. Continuing their series on medication, the authors offer guidance on assessing and managing pain effectively and safely.

Parkinson's disease

McKinlay, Audrey

Neuropsychiatric symptoms in Parkinson's disease : comparisons between self and caregiver report.

Aging & mental health 12(5), September 2008, 647-653

This study examined the agreement between caregiver and Parkinson's disease patient reports of neuropsychiatric problems.

Person-centred care

Allan, Kate

Positive psychology : using strengths and experiencing flow.

The journal of dementia care 16(6), November/December 2008, 24-26

In the second of two articles on the way 'positive psychology' can support and illuminate our work with people with dementia, the author looks at human virtues and strengths, and the experience of flow.

Poetry

Killick, John

'It moves you, it hits you inside' : reading poems at Redholme.

The journal of dementia care 16(6), November/December 2008, 28-29

The author finds that a successful national reading project is benefiting people with dementia - and poetry has been the key.

Aadlandsvik, Ragna

The second sight : learning about and with dementia by means of poetry.

Dementia 7(3), August 2008, 321-339

This article aims at showing poetry's potential to help us understand the inner world of a person with dementia and our own reactions and values in this encounter.

Policy

Wilkinson, Heather and Weaks, Dot

Hearing the voices in the policy-practice-research nexus : the importance of the knowledge exchange process for people with dementia.

Dementia 7(4), November 2008, 427-431

Editorial. The field of dementia has witnessed a sea change in approach and philosophy over the last 10 years. The shift in understanding from purely a medical model to a more person-centred approach is significant and increasingly embedded within government policy. Whilst this is of interest, perhaps the more pertinent questions relate to the nascent processes of knowledge transfer and exchange that have underpinned this process.

Prevention

Alzheimer's Australia .

Mind your mind.

Hawker : Alzheimer's Australia, 2008.

This report has been prepared by Alzheimer's Australia to illustrate the progress being made with its dementia risk reduction program. It explains how the program works, what elements are involved, and reports its success to date.

Rural services

Minnema, Nellie

A cuppa in the country.

The journal of dementia care 16(6), November/December 2008, 20-21

The author tells the story of starting a successful dementia cafe in a rural area.

Reminiscence

Bohlmeijer, E.T.

The effects of integrative reminiscence on meaning in life : results of a quasi-experimental study.

Aging & mental health 12(5), September 2008, 639-646

Finding meaning in life is often cited as an important outcome of reminiscence, but this theoretical claim has not been empirically tested until now. A new intervention combining integrative reminiscence and elements of narrative therapy was developed and the effects on meaning in life were studied.

Research

Kørner, Alex

Delusional disorder in old age and the risk of developing dementia : a nationwide register-based study.

Aging & mental health 12(5), September 2008, 625-629

This study aimed to examine whether very late first-contact delusional disorder carries a risk for later development of dementia.

Sando, Sigrid Botne

Risk-reducing effect of education in Alzheimer's disease.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry 23(11), November 2008, 1156-1162

This study aimed to estimate the effect of education on the risk of Alzheimer's disease.

Respite Care

A guide to developing a short break bureau.

Dunfermline : Shared Care Scotland, 2008.

This guide has been produced to examine different approaches to the short break bureau model of respite care planning and support.

Social interaction

Paquet, Catherine [et al.]

More than just not being alone : the number, nature and complementarity of meal-time social interactions influence food intake in hospitalised elderly patients.

The gerontologist 48(5), October 2008, 603-611

This study evaluated the social facilitation of elderly patients' food intake beyond the presence of mealtime companions by assessing various relationships.

Spirituality

Allen, Rebecca S. [et al.]

Religiousness/spirituality and mental health among older male inmates.

The gerontologist 48(5), October 2008, 692-697

With the rapid growth in the older inmate population, emerging issues regarding physical and mental health require greater research and clinical attention. The authors examined the relation of religiousness/spirituality; demographic characteristics such as age, race, and type of crime; and physical and mental health among older male inmates.

Pickard, Joseph G.

Clergy as mental health service providers to older adults.

Aging & mental health 12(5), September 2008, 615-624

Older adults may seek help from clergy at greater rates than they do from other sources. The authors used data from the Naturally Occurring Retirement Community Demonstration Project to examine older adults' patterns of help-seeking from a religious leader.

Staffing

Smith, Karin, Milburn, Margaret and Mackenzie, Lorna

Poor command of English language : a problem in care homes? If so, what can be done?

The journal of dementia care 16(6), November/December 2008, 37-39

Following an influx into local care homes of workers whose first language was not English, the Newcastle Challenging Behaviour Service asked community and care home staff about their experiences of the effects of these workforce changes on communication.

Stigma

Hunt, Neil

Exorcising the demon of dementia.

Nursing older people 20(9), November 2008, 9-10

By encouraging people to dare speak its name, the Alzheimer's Society is intent on bringing dementia out of the shadows.

Stroke

Simon, Chantal and Kumar, Satinder

Formal support of stroke survivors and their informal carers in the community : a cohort study.

Health and social care in the community 16(6), December 2008, 582-592

This cohort study aims to explore formal care provision to stroke survivors and their informal carers in the community in the UK.

Swann, Julie

Stroke : environmental barriers.

British journal of healthcare assistants 2(11), November 2008, 561-564

A stroke can have a devastating effect not only on a person's physical function but also on their cognitive and perceptual abilities. This article concentrates on difficulties that can occur for people who have suffered from stroke that cause problems managing their environment. It will describe ways to make access easier and facilitate the management of tasks.

Technology

Nygård, Louise

The meaning of everyday technology as experienced by people with dementia who live alone.

Dementia 7(4), November 2008, 481-502

This study explored how people with dementia who live alone experienced the meaning of their everyday technology, such as telephones and electronic equipment, and the use of it.

Support for carers : a guide to telecare.
London : Carers UK, 2008.

A guide for carers covering various telecare solutions and how they can be of use.

Types of dementia

Pountney, David

The many faces of dementia.

Nursing older people 20(9), November 2008, 18-20

The incidence of dementia is predicted to soar over coming decades as our population ages.

The author explores the different pathological forms of this complex syndrome.

Training

Conroy, Jill

Increasing knowledge : can it improve practice?

The journal of dementia care 16(6), November/December 2008, 30-32

The author shares lessons from a project that aimed to explore how knowledge-driven practice could be improved in care homes.

Tannazzo, Teresa [et al]

A dementia training program to benefit certified nurse assistant satisfaction and nursing home resident outcomes.

Alzheimer's care today 9(4), October-December 2008, 221-229

In the United States, healthcare industry professionals are looking to training/education programs to increase satisfaction and retain healthcare workers. Nurse assistants have extensive contact with patients with dementia, yet they know little about the disease and how it may manifest itself and behavioural disturbances. Through a training program designed to educate nurses on the illness, job satisfaction increased significantly.

Trueland, Jennifer

Listen and learn.

Nursing standard 23(7), 22-28 October 2008, 22-23

The author reports on a training scheme for mental health nurses aimed at supporting patients with early onset dementia.

Treatment

Tsai, Athena Yi-jung [et al.]

Evaluation of effect of cognitive intervention programs for the community-dwelling elderly with subjective memory complaints.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry 23(11), November 2008, 1172-1174

This study aimed to compare the efficacy of cognitive training and cognitive stimulation programs for the community elderly with subjective memory complaints.

Well-being

Jopp, Daniela, Rott, Christoph and Oswald, Frank

Valuation of life in old and very old age : the role of sociodemographic, social, and health resources for positive adaptation.

The gerontologist 48(5), October 2008, 646-658

Valuation of life (VOL) represents a construct capturing active attachment to life. This study investigated whether mean levels and the explanatory value of sociodemographic, social, and health predictors for VOL differ between young-old and old-old individuals.

Missotten, Pierre [et al.]

Quality of life in older Belgian people : comparison between people with dementia, mild cognitive impairment, and controls.

International journal of geriatric psychiatry 23(11), November 2008, 1103-1109

This study aimed to assess the sensitivity of the 'Alzheimer's Disease Related Quality of Life' instrument (ADRQL) applied to Belgian people with dementia, mild cognitive impairment, and controls.