

Dementia Simulation Toolkit

Scenario: Cognitive Assessment















Cognitive Assessment

Cognitive assessments are useful for detecting dementia, informing specific diagnoses and helping people to understand/cope with their cognitive symptoms. These typically test mental abilities, such as memory or thinking, however, the assessment process is not always tailored to the needs of people with dementia.





Age-related changes to our sensory systems, e.g., hearing, can impact people with dementia and their ability to successfully complete clinical assessments.

These changes are important in clinical practice as assessments are rarely adapted to the sensory needs of people with dementia.





Simulation Activity: Assessment



Role Description



Laptop



Headphones



10 - 15 minutes



Assessment & pen



Phone/Stopwatch



Roles

- The person with suspected dementia
- The healthcare professional/assessor





Small Group reflection



Generally, how did you find this exercise?



Reflective Questions

- 1) Did the student who played the person with suspected dementia find it difficult to participate in the assessment?
- 2) Did the assessor notice any difficulties in conducting the assessment?
- 3) Is there anything that could make this process easier for the assessor and the person with suspected dementia?
- 4) Did either student come to a better understanding of how assessments may need to be tailored to specific needs?
- 5) How might this process be changed or improved for people with dementia?















