

Scenario: The way to examine

For people with dementia, a stay in a hospital is a special situation: they are in an environment that is foreign to them, they are surrounded by people they do not know, and the daily routine is very different from their own. Consequently, they have to adapt to new circumstances.

In addition to everyday hospital life, special challenges for people with dementia include events such as examinations. This scenario shows how a person with dementia is prepared for and brought to an examination in an acute care hospital.

Aims



The aim of this training scenario is to simulate difficulties in adaption to new circumstances (due to loss of orientation, visual impairments etc.) in an acute care hospital

Learning Objectives



- Increase participant's empathy toward people with dementia
- Develop a person-centered approach for healthcare staff facing situations similar to the scenario

When to use this scenario



This scenario is primarily designed for staff working in healthcare facilities who are caring for people with dementia. The scenario cannot be conducted as an online version.



Equipment

- Role play description handout
- Simulation glasses
- Headphones - best to use headphones that aren't noise canceling.
- Mobile phone



Downloadable supporting materials

- Slide deck
- Evaluation form
- Hospital sound file



Facilitation Instructions

Setting up:

- If the scenario is performed in a healthcare facility (hospital, nursing home, etc.), ensure in advance that you have free (patient) rooms.
- Print out the roleplay description handout prior to the training.
- Send the hospital audio file to the person playing the role of someone with dementia's mobile phone and test out the sound level to ensure they can still hear and understand instructions.

Briefing:

This scenario may be introduced using the following:

- *This roleplay depicts a person with dementia being prepared for and brought to an examination in an acute care hospital.*
- *In pairs, one person will play the role of a healthcare worker while the other person will play the role of a person with dementia."*
- *"You will be given a handout with the scenario description outlining each role. The activity of preparing someone for examination will be acted out in two rounds, each using different approaches. During the second round, you will then switch roles so each person has the chance to step into the shoes of a person with dementia and the healthcare worker."*



15 - 20 minutes

Activity Instructions



1. Divide participants into pairs and provide them with the roleplay scenario description handout.
 - Role 1: a person with dementia
 - Role 2: healthcare staff of an acute care hospital
2. The participant playing the person with dementia will wear the simulation glasses and headphones connected to a mobile phone playing the hospital audio file throughout the role play.
3. Make sure that the sound of the hospital audio clip is at a level whereby the person can still hear and understand the person playing the role of the healthcare worker.
4. The participant playing the role of the healthcare worker is then given the task of preparing the person with dementia for examination and taking him/her there.
5. This activity will be simulated in two rounds:
 - Round 1 - represents a scenario in which the healthcare professional does not demonstrate person-centered behavior toward a person with dementia.
 - Round 2: represents a "best practice" scenario that demonstrates a person-centered approach to the same situation.

Group Reflection / Discussion



After each round take time to reflect on the participant's experience

- How did you experience the situation?
- What can you take away from the scenario for your professional everyday life?
- What can you do to make a person's visit to the hospital a positive one?

Helpful Tips



- Alternatively, this scenario could be complemented by the role of an "informal caregiver" who wants to help his/her person with dementia in the hospital but has no orientation himself/herself.
- In this way, awareness could be trained on how to deal appropriately with the person with dementia and the informal carer, including the fact that the informal carer is not just another "impeding" person, but at best a resource.
- Both role plays can be combined or expanded in the sense of a "modular structure" (e.g. recovery phase after an operation).
- If you don't have access to simulation glasses, try covering the lens of an old pair of glasses with vaseline to demonstrate blurred vision.

Other scenarios this could be combined with include:

- Communicating with people with dementia
- Navigating around hospital corridors with dementia
- Barbara's Story

Additional Resources



The following link provides further information on how to support people with dementia during hospital visits

- <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/help-dementia-care/during-hospital-stay>