

Role Descriptions: Communication in Care

Instructions for the Person with Dementia:

- You are a person with dementia and have communication difficulties with your hearing and speech.
 - You forgot to wear your hearing aid so hearing others is even more difficult today.
 - To mimic this hearing loss, you will wear a set of earphones with white noise playing.
 - In this exercise you can speak but keep in mind that you often experience word-finding difficulties, e.g., when someone asks you a question, you struggle to remember the appropriate words to answer them.
 - You present to a clinic with a healthcare professional for a routine appointment.
 - You wish to make changes to your care plan and request additional support in **(1)** physiotherapy, **(2)** speech and language therapy and **(3)** with fatigue.
 - It is the professional's job to find out what your areas of concern are, and make changes to your care plan accordingly.
 - To do this, the professional will ask you a number of questions.
 - However, due to your communication difficulties, it is hard to hear the professional and it is challenging to find the right words to respond with.
 - As a result, this will make it more difficult for the professional to identify your areas of concern.
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Instructions for the Healthcare Professional:

- A person with dementia and their informal caregiver (optional) has arrived at your clinic today.
- The patient wishes to have some changes made to their care plan and to request additional support in certain areas.
- You have limited information about the patient's concerns.
- The patient also struggles with communication - they are hard of hearing and experience word-finding difficulties
- During this appointment, you must identify the patient's top 3 areas of concern
- Try to demonstrate effective communication skills and use communication aids where appropriate.



Instructions for Informal Caregiver (optional):

- You are the informal caregiver of the person with dementia.
 - You present to a clinic with your family member as you wish for their care plan to be adjusted and request additional support in **(1)** physiotherapy, **(2)** speech and language therapy, and **(3)** fatigue.
 - Your role is to talk about the person with dementia as if they are not in the room and regularly talk over/ interrupt the person with dementia.
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