

Supporting People with Dementia in Primary Care – Alison Skea

Practice discussion- clinical staff

1. **The following are real examples of a referrals to Memory Assessment Service (MAS) in their entirety. MAS is a dementia diagnostic service. Have a look and reflect on if they provide enough information to enable an effective triage? Consider what else should be included?**
 - a) 6-12 month history of memory loss symptoms. Recently attended funeral in Bradford and forgot peoples names.
 - b) He is very concerned regarding issues with his memory. he has had issues with anxiety on and off as well
 - c) Memory clinic assessment request as per A&E letter due to ongoing intermittent confusion. Please see discharge summary attached, ECG done in A&E.

2. **Clinical scenario for discussion:**

Mrs. E, an 82-year-old woman with mild dementia, attends her GP practice with her daughter, who acts as her primary caregiver. The GP notices that Mrs. E appears withdrawn and unkempt, and her daughter answers all the questions, often interrupting or speaking over her. The daughter reports that Mrs. E has become increasingly "difficult" at home, refusing to bathe or eat, and that she has started locking her in her bedroom at night "for her safety." Mrs. E avoids eye contact and doesn't respond when asked directly about her living situation.

Discussion:

- a) What are the potential safeguarding issues in this case?
- b) What are the red flags that suggest Mrs. E might not be receiving appropriate care?
- c) How can the GP ensure Mrs. E's voice is heard?
- d) How can the GP assess Mrs. E's safety and decision-making capacity?
- e) What support could be offered to Mrs. E's daughter to prevent caregiver burnout?
- f) What immediate actions should be taken if safeguarding concerns are confirmed?
- g) How can the GP balance Mrs. E's autonomy and safety while addressing the concerns raised?
- h) What other professionals could be involved to support Mrs. E and her family?

3. **Do you diagnose advanced dementia in the care home population?**

Practice discussion- non clinical staff

4. **What steps are you taking to ensure dementia diagnosis is coded correctly and added to the QOF register?**

5. **Is your practice dementia friendly? How do you know?**

Complete the checklist in the ' A Guide to making general practice dementia friendly'

https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-04/2017_dementia_friendly_general_practice_toolkit_guide_notts_derbys_project.pdf

