PREVENTING AVOIDABLE HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

Problem
People with dementia are twice as likely to be admitted to hospital and 2-3 times more likely to have an adverse event in hospital than people the same age who do not have dementia. Although some hospitalisations are clinically necessary, others could potentially be avoided. This project is exploring ways to reduce avoidable hospital presentations for people with dementia living in the community.

Collaborators
NARI, Austin Health, Melbourne Health, Northern Health, Alzheimer’s Australia VIC, University of Melbourne, Department of Health and Human Services

Design
1. Systematic review of literature
2. Audit of ED presentations of people with dementia
3. Survey of carers, hospital staff and GPs
4. Development and evaluation of resources to support people with dementia and their carers in making health care decisions.

Progress
- Ethics approval attained from Austin Health & Melbourne Health for part 2
- Data collection of ED presentations has commenced at Melbourne Health
- Multi-site ethics approval is currently being sought for part 3 (survey of carers, hospital staff & GPs)
- Systematic review has commenced

Contacts
Project Team: NARI—Frances Batchelor, Anita Panayiotou; Austin Health—Paul Yates, David Taylor, Thomas Chan, Paul MacGibbon, Janice Brown, Jane Tehan; Melbourne Health—Jo Tropea, Kwang Lim, Thomas Razga, Steven Pincus, Sharne Donoghue; Northern Health—Drew Aras, Dolly John
Project Advisory Group: Betty Haralambous (NARI), Paulene Mackell (NARI), David Sykes (AAV), Nicola Lautenschlager (University of Melbourne), Andre Catricle (DHHS), Phillip Catterson (DHHS)
Site Contacts: Paul Yates (Austin Health), Jo Tropea & Kwang Lim (Melbourne Health), Drew Aras (Northern Health)
www.nari.net.au/marc/our-research

Project Manager
Anita Panayiotou
Research Fellow, MARC
Ph: 03 8387 2662
E: a.panayiotou@nari.edu.au

Supported by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, JO & JR Wicking Trust, State Trustees Australia Foundation.