

## Implementation of a Dementia Screening Tool (Poster)

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### Published In/Presented At

Fougere, A., Garde, L., Green, C. (2014, July 18). *Implementation of a Dementia Screening Tool*. Poster presented at: LVHN UHC/AACN Nurse Residency Program Graduation, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, PA.

Fougere, A., Greene, C. (2015, March). *Implementation of a Dementia Screening Tool*. Poster presented at the University Health System Consortium/American Association of College and Nursing Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ.

Fougere, A., Greene, C. (2015, September 10). *Implementation of a Dementia Screening Tool*. Poster presented at: Philadelphia Area Magnet Meeting.

Fougere, A., Greene, C. (2015, April). *Implementation of a Dementia Screening Tool*. Poster presented at: NICHE Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.

Fougere, A., Greene, C. (2015, Winter). *Implementation of a Dementia Screening Tool*. Lehigh Valley Hospital Publication Magnet Attraction.

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# IMPLEMENTATION OF DEMENTIA SCREENING TOOL

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A PASSION FOR BETTER MEDICINE.™



# Background/Significance

- **Dementia is a widespread chronic disease** that is associated with many complications.
- Early identification and intervention improves care** of patients diagnosed with dementia.
- It has also been found that although some elderly may not have been diagnosed with dementia, **there are many who suffer enough cognitive impairment to affect their daily function**
- There are many dementia screening tools however, **there are no tools for memory impairment commonly used for nurses to perform in hospitals.**

# PICO QUESTION

- For patients aged  $\geq 65$  years of age, will the implementation of a dementia screening tool, compared with no screening tool, lead to a more individualized plan of care and better outcomes.
- *P*: Patients admitted  $\geq 65$  years of age.
- *I* : Implementation of dementia screening tool within 12 hours of admission.
- *C*: No screening vs. screening tool
- *O*: Individualized plan of care based on dementia screening tool score/outcome.

# TRIGGER?

- Knowledge v. Problem

- Knowledge Focused Trigger:

- It has been found that dementia is “under-recognized and under-diagnosed” in our communities.
- There are many dementia screening tools, but no current tools for nurses to perform in hospitals to determine a memory impairment.
- As the elderly population increases, this will become an increasingly aspect of care that needs to be addressed.



# EVIDENCE

- Search Engines Used:
  - CINAHL, EBSCOHost, PubMed
- Key Words Used:
  - dementia, cognitive impairment, screening

# EVIDENCE

Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The MMSE uses five cognitive domains to determine impairment: orientation, registration, recall, language, and attention and calculation</li> <li>-This test has high sensitivity and specificity with determining different levels of dementia</li> <li>- Scores vary with age and education level.</li> <li>-<b><i>Costs about \$7 per person</i></b></li> <li>-<b><i>Takes about 5-12 minutes to administer.</i></b></li> </ul>
Mini-Cog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Mini-Cog uses recall and clock drawing test to screen for dementia.</li> <li>- No training is needed to perform the test</li> <li>- Takes 2-4 minutes long.</li> <li>- Mini-Cog is also cheaper to use than the MMSE.</li> <li>- <b><i>Interpretation can be subjective and lengthy with this test.</i></b></li> </ul>
Eight-item Interview to Differentiate Aging and Dementia (AD8):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The AD8 tests for memory, orientation, judgment and function by asking a total of 8 questions to the patient or family and friends. A score 2 or greater is positive for memory impairment</li> <li>-Takes about 3 minutes to complete</li> <li>- <b><i>Has been validated with non-English speakers and low education levels.</i></b></li> <li>-<b><i>No training is required.</i></b></li> <li>-<b><i>Detects change from previous function.</i></b></li> </ul>

# The AD8

Remember, "Yes, a change" indicates that you think there has been a change in the last several years cause by cognitive (thinking and memory) problems	<b>YES, A change</b>	<b>NO, No change</b>	<b>N/A, Don't know</b>
Problems with judgment (e.g. falls for scams, bad financial decisions, buys gifts inappropriate for recipients)			
Reduced interest in hobbies/activities			
Repeats questions, stories or statements			
Trouble learning how to use a tool, appliance or gadget (e.g. VCR, computer, microwave, remote control)			
Forgets correct month or year			
Difficulty handling complicated financial affairs (e.g. balancing checkbook, income taxes, paying bills)			
Difficulty remembering appointments			
Consistent problems with thinking and/or memory			
<b>TOTAL AD8 SCORE</b>			



# Current Practice at LVHN

- There is currently no baseline data or tools being implemented to screen patients at risk for dementia/cognitive deficits at LVHN.

# Design/Process

- We looked at many different memory screenings including the Mini-Mental Status Exam, Mini-Cog and AD8. The AD8 was one that took the least amount of time and was most appropriate for nurses to perform in an acute care setting.
- Our question was then, how well does the AD8 work in an acute care setting?
- We Implemented AD8 on 27 patients with their families

# RESULTS

- Patients and family were receptive to screening.
- We scored more positive results when questions were asked to family versus only the patient.
- On average, screening took between 2 and 4 minutes to administer.

# **Next Steps/Implementation: Care plan and Dissemination**

- Perform AD8 with patients
- Apply care plan, we created based on clinical practice guideline from EPIC, on patients who test positive for memory impairment
- Alert primary care physicians of memory deficit through discharge instructions

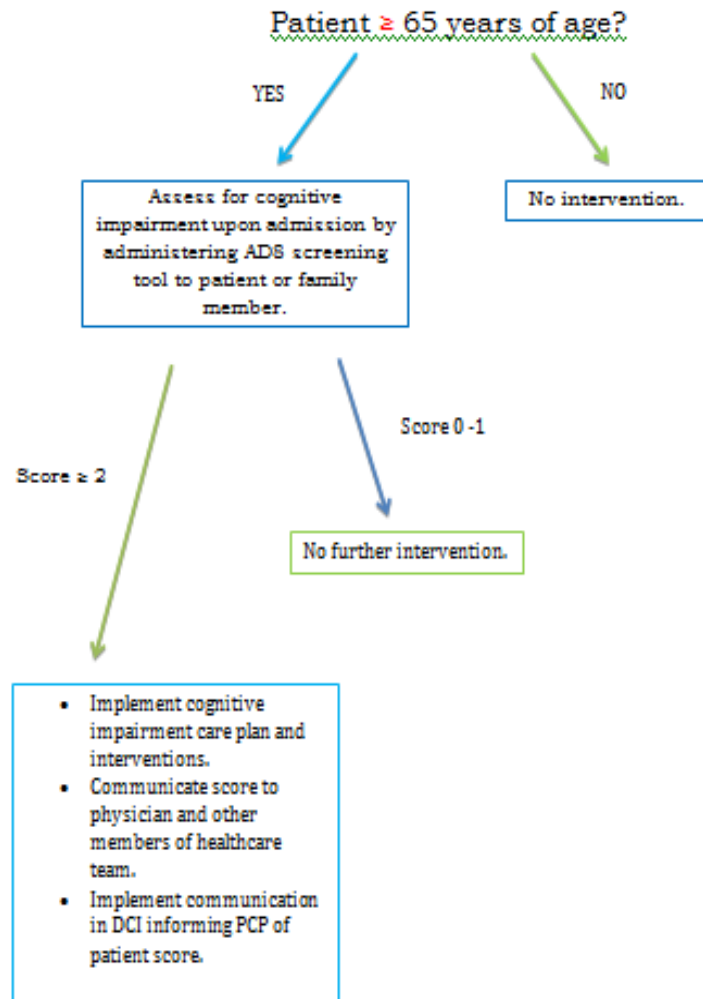


# Care plan

- Cognitive Impairment Care Plan
- Implement for a score of 2 or greater on AD8 assessment tool.
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- Purpose:
- Minimize cognitive and functional impairment as demonstrated by the patient.
- Keep patient free from injury or harm, while maximizing independence within the limits required to keep patient safe.
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- Interventions:
- - Prevent/manage modifiable contributing factors (e.g., pain, anxiety, hypoxia, fluid/electrolyte imbalances, sleep disturbances, medications, sensory impairments, immobility, environmental disruptions).
- - Evaluate and inquire about patient involvement in ADLs.
- - Encourage family presence and involvement in patient care.
- - Provide orientation cues (e.g., identify self at each encounter, address person by name at each meeting, frequent orientation to person/place/purpose of admission.)
- - Attempt to establish a routine, as well as continuity of staff members, and communicate this to other members of the healthcare team.
- - Organize environment so as to maximize safety for patient [e.g., call bell and needs in reach, room free of clutter, adequate lighting, orientation cues (clock, window, dry erase board).]
- - Encourage family to bring in items from home so as to provide familiar environment to reduce anxiety and confusion.
- - Use simple, concise instructions when directing patient to avoid frustration and confusion.
- - Implement safety precautions (e.g., fall precautions, elopement precautions, infection prevention).
- - Support family/significant others (e.g., ensure good communication, explain patient's behavior, keep them informed, encourage verbalization of feelings, acknowledge fears, assess caregiver strain and coping/resources, refer for counseling, assist in finding resources).

# Strategic Dissemination of Results

## Cognitive Impairment Dissemination Tree





# Indicators, Process and Outcomes

- **Indicators:** How long does it take for the AD8 to be performed on patient in an acute care setting?
- **Process:** Perform the AD8 on patients greater than or equal to 65 years of age one time during admission and time how long it will take to do the test.
- **Outcomes:** After asking 27 patients and their family the AD8 questions, the AD8 took an average 2-4 minutes to perform.

# Practice Change/Implications for LVHN

- Educate nurses on AD8 and promote use of care plan
- Make changes in discharge instructions to allow space to put positive results of the AD8 to inform primary care physicians

## Lessons Learned

- Process of how to do an evidence base practice project
- The importance of screening for memory impairment in the elderly and ensuring they receive the best care



- ## References

# Make It Happen

## ■ Questions/Comments?



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