

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Dementia Volunteer
Reporting to (title):	Ward Manager / Dementia Specialist
Professionally Accountable to (title):	No professional accountability
Responsible for Supervising (if appropriate):	No staff responsibility
Department & Directorate:	Elderly Assessment Team

JOB SUMMARY

- Under supervision of the ward manager, provide 1:1 care or enhanced supervisory support for patients with cognitive impairment
- Under guidance from the multi-disciplinary team implement plans to meet the individuals psychological, spiritual, emotional and physical needs
- With support, provide special attention to identify patients unmet needs and avoid a state of ill-being or behaviour which might be perceived to be challenging
- Implement the individual falls management safety plan
- As a member of the Care Team, assist qualified staff in delivering a caring and effective, patient focussed service in keeping with the aims, objectives and standards of the Trust
- Effective communication is maintained within care team and between other care teams, patients, relatives and visitors
- Under guidance from qualified staff, sensitive and appropriate clinical care is delivered to meet individuals' needs, respecting personal dignity and beliefs
- Information is handled and exchanged with care, accuracy and sensitivity, maintaining patient confidentiality at all times
- Assist with the maintenance of a safe care environment and equipment with particular reference to infection control and safe working environment for patients, visitors and staff

OVERVIEW OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Management of Patient Care

- Supports Registered Nurse / Occupational Therapist in the holistic assessment of patient needs
- Facilitates appropriate meaningful occupation, stimulation and rest
- Supports individuals to express themselves through both verbal and non-verbal communication
- Validates patients feelings and reality
- Performs clinical baseline observations
- Orientates patient and relatives to the ward environment
- Follows plan of care, reports any changes in the patient's condition
- Contributes with suggestions and ideas for action
- Reports results of any intervention
- Records and documents episodes of care in accordance with guidelines
- Liaises with other departments and members of the multidisciplinary team

Legal and Ethical Practices

- Understands principles of Adult Safeguarding, Equality Act, Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and applies this to everyday practice
- Follows local policies and procedures e.g. fire, manual handling, violence and aggression and infection control
- Adheres to principles of good practice
- Demonstrates respect of patients 'privacy and dignity
- Is aware of own responsibilities to respect and maintain patient confidentiality e.g. use of privacy button when dealing with telephone enquiries
- Works within boundaries of knowledge and training
- Safely handles and cares for the patients property

Standards of Care

- Maintains and works to set standards of care, e.g. washes hands between each patient contact, appropriate use of PPE, adheres to uniform policy.

Governance

- Reports problems to senior member of staff
- Records information as directed
- Informs appropriate personnel/department as directed
- Understands how risk assessment is a normal part of patient care
- Recognises when a situation may lead to a complaint, and refers the situation to the nurse in charge
- Recognises vulnerable patients and reports concerns about welfare issues to the nurse in charge.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- Use sensitive observation to assess well-being / ill-being
- Use high level of communication
- Supports patients to make their wishes known
- Promote independence and mobility

- Respect patient's rights, choices and wishes
- Supports patients to maintain their person-hood / identity through establishing a relationship with the patient, their family/friends and the use of 'This Is Me'.
- Implement 'Meaningful Activity Plans'
- Identifies ways of helping the patient to engage in creative self- expression (using humour where appropriate), have a sense of purpose and role, utilise remaining abilities and maximise strengths
- Be responsive and flexible to the changing needs of the individual
- Under supervision of the multi-disciplinary team complete 'communication = behaviour' charts and recognise trends, 'Abbey' pain assessments