



Office of A.N.D. Older People and Palliative Care - Strategy
Services for Older People
HSE Community Services Building
Rathass, Tralee, Co. Kerry

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5th February, 2021

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy McDonald,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ Ref: 3838/21

To ask the Minister for Health the dementia training provided for front-line acute hospital staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

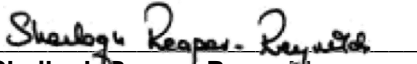
The National Dementia Strategy is underpinned by the principles of personhood and citizenship and seeks to enable people with dementia to maintain their identity, resilience and dignity. Training and Education is a priority action area in the strategy, highlighting the need to develop and facilitate education and training for health care staff, for families, for carers and for the general public (DoH, 2014). This is to ensure that those who provide care or who interact with people with dementia have the skills, competency and confidence to preserve personhood and provide appropriate care and support.

Specific dementia training and awareness programmes are a key deliverable of the National Dementia Strategy. Tailored programmes have been developed with experts in dementia and are freely available, e.g. for health and social care workers, retail, public services, family carers.

A range of training in dementia and delirium care suitable for staff in acute hospitals, including 4 hour intensive, and 2-day detailed training programmes, are available for all staff in the acute hospital settings. These programmes are available through practice development and the centres for Nurse Education locally. The education programme aims to promote skills development for staff so they can provide evidenced-based person centred care. The programme also aims to create awareness amongst hospital staff regarding the impact of dementia on individuals and their families and highlight how hospitalisation affects people with dementia and their care. The programme is suitable for all staff that come into contact with a person with dementia from Receptionist to Catering staff; Porter Staff, Clerical Staff; Nursing staff; Allied Health Professionals & Clinicians.

Dementia education and awareness programmes are facilitated at hospital level through practice development and local Centres for nurse education. There are also online programmes and access to additional education programmes available on <https://dementiathways.ie/education-and-training>

Yours sincerely,


Sheilagh Reaper-Reynolds,
A.N.D. Older People and Palliative Care - Strategy