**Abstract 2) Dementia Care**

**Title: Dying for better care in dementia**

Improving end-of-life care for people with Dementia and reducing hospitalisation using the Gold Standards Framework (GSF) Dementia Care Training Programme.

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**Aim:** Dementia is now the biggest cause of death for women in the UK, and the importance ofproactive quality end-of-life carefor people with dementia is increasingly recognised. People with dementia are at greater risk of inappropriate hospitalisation and interventions, sometimes causing worsening disorientation, distress, morbidity and mortality. Care for people with dementia in hospital wards also poses particular challenges for hospital staff, sometimes leading to inappropriate over-use of medication and sedatives.

The GSF Dementia Care Programme focusses on a proactive person-centred approach to End-of-life care, aiming for reduced hospitalisation. It was initially supported by a Government grant.

**Method**

The 4 modular online course with 2 interactive workshops is offered to frontline staff working with people with dementia. It includes:

1. Awareness of the impact on the person and their families and person-centred care.
2. Communication and Advance Care Planning with people with dementia.
3. Assessment and management of pain and distress in people with dementia.
4. Means to reduce inappropriate hospitalisation with more living and dying in their usual place of residence

Evaluation includes before and after measures, both quantitative and qualitative.

**Result**: We report on the outcomes of over 100 learners in different settings related to changes in knowledge, understanding, confidence, skills and practice in dementia care.

**Conclusion:** The programme shows improvements in awareness and confidence of staff in caring for people with dementia towards the end of their life, and in the four key areas of improving outcomes. Staff are able to better identify deterioration in a person with dementia as they approach the end of their life with improved communication skills. The programme has been reported to effect the care of the wider team, changing the ethos and attitudes within the organisation. This work is helping to put UK Government policy into practice.