DEMENTIA FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT IN THE RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

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Dementia Friendly Environment

Globally there is broad acknowledgement that health centre personals and service givers require to conceptualise the complexity of treating and taking care of individuals living with dementia. At least 25% of the hospital beds are utilised by individuals living with dementia. Therefore, there is a need to implement measures to ensure a smooth process when handling people with the condition (Challen, Low &McEntee, 2018). Radiology technologists and other members of the radiology department, therefore, are required to support and understand the needs of the individuals with the condition and their careers to deliver personalised care and ensure best outcomes from the radiography imaging. This reports aim is to find an idea that can be implemented in the radiology department to change the practices when handling individuals living with dementia.

Individuals living with dementia have challenges with memory, executive behaviour, and functions, which consequently pose a problem during diagnostic imaging. In developing a dementia-friendly setting in the radiology department, it is important to ensure that the X-ray examinations are more comfortable for the individuals undergoing the scan (Challen et al., 2018). The radiology department main goal is creating a calm examination with the least possible distress to the individuals with the condition in the engagement process. With a calm environment, the technologists and other staffs will have a chance of engaging the individuals with dementia which has been shown to have beneficial effects, including an increase of positive emotions by the patients.

To ensure that engagement with the individuals with dementia is fully utilised the radiology department will manage the booking of patients with the condition in less busy days (Handley, Bunn & Goodman, 2017). To properly handle patients with dementia, flexibility, and

patience are of the essence since the individuals with the condition may become agitated when simple tasks and procedures become challenging (Handley et al., 2017). Therefore, the radiology department will schedule appointments with the patients when there is ample time to completely and effectively handle a patient's condition. This idea will be of significant help in a thorough analysis of the individual's state since the radiology procedures may require more time than scheduled as dementia occurs differently in individuals hence, they experience its progression and symptoms differently (Lin, 2017).

Lack of proper engagement due to time limitation during the imaging process has been indicated to be a contributor to negative imaging encounters by the patients. According to Lin (2017), caregivers describe the long delays in the imaging department when waiting for the results as a significant contributor to the individual's agitation. When the individuals with the condition are rushed through the imaging process they lacked the chance to adjust to the change of the surrounding leading to distress and confusion (Chang, Singh, Boyd & Lawson, 2016) However, by proper appointment scheduling the persons with the department are likely to adjust to the environment hence reducing the confusion.

In conclusion, individuals with dementia and their caregivers experience challenging situations in the radiology departments, and the technologists find it challenging to work with the individuals with dementia. The radiology department staffs should undergo training about dementia, imaging services in addition to the implementation of the appointment scheduling idea to improve their environment, procedures, and work with a better partnership with the caregivers.

Reference list

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