

209 - The Impact of Function Focused Care in Assisted Living Communities in the United States during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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The purpose of this study was to test the preliminary effectiveness and feasibility of implementation of a function focused care intervention, referred to as Function Focused Care for Assisted Living Using the Evidence Integration Triangle in Assisted Living Communities with Residents with Dementia, and consider the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on incidences of COVID-19 and worsening of behavioral symptoms. The intervention was designed to facilitate a philosophy of care in which staff are educated and helped to actively engage residents in functional and physical activity during all care interactions. This was a single group pre-post intervention study including 51 assisted living communities in a single state in the United States. The communities ranged in size from 8 to 50 beds with the mean number of beds being 13.25 (SD=7.69). The majority (99%) were for profit. There was significant improvement in the support of the environments ($p=.01$) and policies ($p=.04$) for physical activity. There was no significant change in falls, emergency room transfers, hospitalizations or nursing community transfers over time. Overall there were only 7 (18%) communities that had COVID-19 positive patients with the numbers ranging from 1-16 residents and percentage ranging from 0-31% and a mean percentage of 17%. The majority did not require that the residents quarantine in their rooms (87%) although they did restrict visitation with the exception of 3 (8%) communities that let families visit after training and with exposure and symptom risk assessments completed at each visit. Communities in which residents were quarantined in their rooms had a 40% greater likelihood of having COVID-19 positive residents than communities that did not quarantine residents. None of the restrictions imposed were associated with worsening of behavioral symptoms. The findings are descriptive and pilot in nature but can be used to guide future research around prevention and management of infections in assisted living.

210 - Are visits allowed? The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on care home visitation and care delivery in the UK

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Background: COVID-19 has caused the sudden closure of care homes to the outside world, to stem the virus from infecting some of the most vulnerable groups of people – older adults residing in care homes. With very little knowledge to date, we aimed to explore the impact of COVID-19 on care provision and visits in care homes from staff and family members' perspectives.

Methods: Care home staff and family carers of people living with dementia (PLWD) across the UK were recruited via convenience sampling and participated via telephone or Zoom. Participants took part in a semi-structured remote interview. Baseline data were collected between October and November 2020, and follow-up interviews were collected throughout March 2021. Anonymised transcripts were analysed separately by two research team members using thematic analysis, with codes discussed and themes generated jointly, supported by research team input.