

Levene, T. et al. The minimum clinically important difference of the Social Functioning in Dementia Scale (SF-DEM): cross-sectional study and Delphi survey

### Appendix 1: Vignettes used for phase 1 and 2 of the Delphi survey for calculation of the minimum clinically important difference for the Social Functioning in Dementia (SF-DEM) scale

We would now like to ask you to give your opinion on a series of fictionalised case scenarios describing people with dementia. The questions do not relate to social functioning during COVID restrictions.

Please read the following scenario and answer whether you think that the change in the amount of social contact for the person with dementia described is important to their health or quality of life.

*[The vignettes detailed below were then presented in a random order. Only the text of the vignette was shown to participants, without indication of the number of points of change each represented. After each vignette, the following question was asked:]*

Do you consider this change important to XX's health or quality of life?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure (comments can be entered below)
  - Free text box for comments

#### Phase 1 vignettes

Domain 1: Time with others	1 point	Improvement	Joan lives in a sheltered accommodation and goes shopping with her daughter weekly and is visited twice a week by her grandson. She continues these activities but has also started going to the monthly coffee mornings in the shared space in her accommodation.
		Decline	Peter lives with his daughter, goes to church once per week and to music concerts approximately monthly. He used to meet with a friend in his local pub once per week, but no longer does this as frequently, only going every two months.
	2 points	Improvement	Marianna's son visits her twice a week, and goes shopping with her friend once a week. She has now begun to go with her friend to an exercise class every fortnight.
		Decline	Bill lives alone and would be visited by his granddaughter once a week but she has moved to another city for university so now only visits him every two months. In addition, he now rarely goes to church, having previously been a weekly attender.
	3 points	Improvement	Tom has lived in a care home for the past 18 months and his son and grandchildren, who live 4hour drive

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			away, visit him monthly. It is arranged that he moves to a care home in the same town as his son so his family now visit him every day.
		Decline	Maggie lives with her husband and they attended an exercise class together every week but difficulties with balance have stopped her from going to the exercise class. Their weekly shopping trips have also now stopped.
	4 points	Improvement	Ola used to live with his wife and they would occasionally go to a restaurant. She had a stroke requiring hospital admission and remains in a rehabilitation hospital so Ola sees no-one at home and does not go out to restaurants.
		Decline	Susi used to go to her local coffee shop every morning, and to her daughter's home for dinner every Friday. In the last month, she has not been able to go to her local café and has not visited her daughter's home at all.
Domain 2: Communicating with others	1 point	Improvement	Fred lives in a residential home and used to call to his son once a month, but his son now calls Fred more frequently, twice a week, to check on his safety.
		Decline	When Monica met with her neighbour, she would often ask about her friend's about any concerns about her family, but now Monica only remembers to do this occasionally.
	2 points	Improvement	Ada used to often find it difficult to follow conversations when in groups of people but her friends have noticed that she can follow the conversations if they speak more clearly and directly to Ada so she now never has difficulty being involved in conversations.
		Decline	Ahmed used to call his daughter every week but now only remembers to do this every few weeks, so she calls him on other occasions. He used to occasionally have difficulty following conversations but now says that this happens often.
	3 points	Improvement	Sarah previously could not contribute to conversations at her day centre but she now always takes part in lengthy conversations with staff at the day centre.
		Decline	Andrea is called by her granddaughter Maria, who is currently studying at University abroad, once a week. She used to always ask Maria about her studies and being away from home, but now always forgets to ask about these things.
	4 points	Improvement	Pauline is called by her close friend every day for a chat. She previously would not share things that were

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			worrying her, but now discusses these during most conversations which is reassuring for her. She used to never initiate conversation during these phone calls and would only listen to her friend but now she often brings up new topics of conversation.
		Decline	Magda lives alone but would speak every day by phone with her sister. After her sister died, she no longer speaks by phone to anyone and she also occasionally finds it difficult to speak to other people about her feelings.
Domain 3: Sensitivity to others	1 point	Improvement	Jose would often be irritated during the visits of his care workers though he would not be aggressive or argue with them. He is now slightly more accepting although continues to occasionally be irritated by their care.
		Decline	Kim was previously always friendly with her neighbours even when they would play music loudly. Their behaviour has not changed, but now she will occasionally tell them that she is annoyed that their noise kept her awake.
	2 points	Improvement	Liz and her husband watch television during the evenings and she would always be irritated when her husband asked her questions which she found distracting. This would always lead to an argument. Recently, she has become more tolerant of her husband's questions and they have only occasionally argued.
		Decline	Suneeta lives alone in sheltered accommodation and would often join the group activities. Now she always excuses herself from these stating that she is not interested.
	3 points	Improvement	Bert used to always find a reason why he could not attend family gatherings but now has more confidence in these settings and so always agree to join these.
		Decline	When Norah saw her daughter and grandchildren she would not criticise her grandchildren's behaviour, but she does not disguise her annoyance and always comments on things they are doing that irritate her.
	4 points	Improvement	Jan lives with his wife and used to often get irritated at his wife suggesting they go out for a walk and this would always lead to an argument. He now no longer gets irritable and they have not argued for several months.
		Decline	Tara used to enjoy going to the cinema weekly with her friend. For the last few months, she has made

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			excuses not to go to the cinema which would lead to an argument with her friend on those occasions.
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### Phase 2 vignettes

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Domain 1: Time with others	1 point	Improvement	Joan lives in a sheltered accommodation and her son visits her twice a week. In addition to this, she has now also begun to go to the group exercise class in her accommodation every fortnight.
		Decline	Peter lives alone and is visited by his granddaughter once a week and also sees his neighbour most days. However, he now rarely goes to church, having previously been a weekly attender.
Domain 2: Communicating with others	1 point	Improvement	Fred has mild dementia and previously always found it difficult to follow conversations when in groups of people. His friends have begun to speak more directly to him which sometimes helps him although he still often cannot follow the thread of conversations.
		Decline	When Monica met with her neighbour, she would always ask her friend if she had any concerns about her family, but now Monica occasionally forgets to ask about this.
	3 points	Improvement	Sarah previously could not contribute to conversations with her family when they visit but she now always takes part in lengthy conversations with them.
		Decline	Andrea lives alone but would have a long conversation every day by phone with her sister. However, since her sister died, she now only speaks occasionally to another relative on the phone and she also occasionally finds it difficult to speak to other people about her feelings.
Domain 3: Sensitivity to others	1 point	Improvement	Jose becomes irritated almost every day when his wife tries to talk to him about their plans for the day, and this would always lead to arguments. Now, he continues to be irritated every day but this only leads to an argument about three or four times a week.
		Decline	Kim has always been friendly with the other residents in her nursing home. She remains friendly but has started to occasionally tell them that she is annoyed if the television is on too loud.