

## An evaluation of medication management guidance provided to carers of people living with dementia at hospital discharge

**Definition of Carer:** A person who assists and supports a person living with dementia and:

- is the primary or secondary carer;
- the type of care may be routine, regular or occasional; or
- has caregiving responsibilities that are either informal in nature (unpaid) or formal (paid)
  - informal carers provide care within the context of an existing relationship e.g. family member, friend or neighbour;
  - formal carers directly provide or manage care in the community or in a residential care facility (also known as a long-term care facility). They are registered nurses, enrolled nurses, assistants in nursing, allied health workers, community care workers and personal care attendants.

**Definition of medication management:** As a carer, you are involved in one or more of the following activities: select, supply, prepare, administer, record and monitor (including review) medications for the person you care for. The person you care for is someone who lives with dementia in the community, a retirement home or a residential aged care facility.

**Definition of medication management guidance:** As a carer, this means a hospital provides you with information in written and/or verbal form to ensure that you safely manage medications for the person living with dementia. Examples of medication management guidance are:

- information in a discharge summary (summarises care provided during hospital stay including an explanation of any changes made to medications and instructions for follow-up care),
- a list of medications (detailed instructions on how to take medications); or
- hospital staff talking with you about medications for the person you care for.

**Hospital Discharge:** this occurs when the person you care for no longer needs care in hospital and can go home or to another facility. On leaving the hospital, the hospital provides you with medication management guidance to help manage medications for the person living with dementia in their home or at another facility. Medication management guidance provided by the hospital can occur at, during or after the time of discharge.

**Please confirm that you are eligible to participate in the survey by confirming that you meet ALL of the following criteria:**

1. I am a carer (as defined above) of a person living with dementia, who is taking medication;
2. I am responsible for managing the medications of the person living with dementia who I care for;
3. The person living with dementia who I care for has had at least one admission to and discharge from a hospital
4. I am aged 18 years and over

**[Survey Starts here](#)**

**Part 1: Provision of medication management guidance at hospital discharge**

The following statements are about the most recent time the person you care for was discharged from hospital. How and when was medication management guidance provided to you in your role as the carer for the person living with dementia? **This can include receiving guidance in written and/or verbal form** on some or all medications.

<p>1. When were you given medication management guidance for the person with dementia? (more than one answer is possible)</p> <p>Answer options:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On the day of discharge</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On the day before discharge</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On another day during hospital admission</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> After discharge</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I was not given medication management guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) .....</p>
<p>2. Which healthcare professional provided medication management guidance on discharge? (More than one answer is possible)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Physician (doctor)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Nurse</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacist (Chemist)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) .....</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I do not know</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable</p>
<p>3. How was the medication management guidance provided? (more than one answer is possible)</p> <p>Answer options:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Face to face</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Written communication (e.g. list of medications, discharge summary, medication instructions)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Verbal communication (e.g., telephone)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) .....</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable</p>
<p>4. Were you asked about your ability to obtain a supply of medications after discharge?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable</p>

Please feel free to comment:

**Part 2: Carer understanding of medication management guidance provided at discharge**

The following questions are about your understanding of the medication management guidance the hospital provided for the person you care for. Medication management guidance could have

occurred at, during or after the time of discharge. Examples of medication management guidance are:

- information in a discharge summary (summarises care provided to the person you care for during hospital stay including an explanation of any changes made to medications and instructions for follow-up care),
- a list of medications (detailed instructions on how to take medications); or
- hospital staff talking with you about medications for the person you care for.

**How much do you agree** with the following statements?

If you answered 'I was not given medication management guidance' in question 1, please answer 'not applicable' for the following statements.

Items	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Not applicable
5. I found the discharge summary information on medications for the person with dementia easy to understand						
6. I found the list of medications for the person with dementia easy to understand						
7. I found the medication guidance explained by the hospital healthcare professional easy to understand						
8. The hospital healthcare professional spent adequate time explaining the medication guidance to me						

Please feel free to comment:

### **Part 3: Carer engagement in discussing the safe use of medications at discharge**

The following statements are about the medication management guidance the hospital provided to ensure that you safely managed medications for the person living with dementia. Medication management guidance could have occurred at, during or after the time of discharge. **This can include receiving guidance/information in written and/or verbal form** on some or all medications. **How much do you agree** with the following statements?

If you answered 'I was not given medication management guidance' in question 1, please answer 'not applicable' for the following statements.

Items	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Not applicable
9. I was given information about the purpose of the medications						
10. I was given instructions about how to administer medications						
11. I was given information about possible medication side effects						
12. I was given information on medications that can act on the brain and affect the person with dementia's mood and behaviour (e.g. medicines used to treat behaviours or for sleep, also known as psychotropic medications)						
13. I was given information about how long the person with dementia should be using each of their medications						
14. I was given information about any medication changes made in hospital						
15. I was given information about any medications that were ceased in hospital						
16. I was given information about which medications could interact with each other						
17. I was given information about the possible benefits of medications						
18. I was asked if the person with dementia had any problems taking their medications						
19. I was included in decisions about medications for the person with dementia						
20. I had the opportunity to ask questions about medications for the person with dementia						
21. My questions about medications for the person with dementia were answered in a way I could understand						

Please feel free to comment:

**Part 4: Carer preparedness to manage medications after discharge**

The following questions are about how well the hospital provided you with medication management guidance to ensure that you safely managed medications for the person living with dementia.

Medication management guidance could have occurred at, during or after the time of discharge.

**This can include receiving information or instructions in written and/or verbal form** on some or all medications.

If you answered 'I was not given medication management guidance' in question 1, please answer 'not applicable' for the following statements.

Items	Not well at all	Not so well	Neither well or not so well	Well	Very well	Not applicable
22. I felt overwhelmed when receiving medication guidance at discharge						
23. I was satisfied with the medication information provided at discharge						
24. I felt confident to manage the medications for the person with dementia after discharge						
25. I felt satisfied that I was offered the choice of a Dose Administration Aid (e.g. blister pack, dosette box, webster pack) for the person with dementia						

Please feel free to comment:

**Part 5. Co-ordination of medication management guidance after discharge**

The following questions are about your medication-management related activities as the carer for the person with dementia after leaving the hospital. **How much do you agree** with the following statements?

Items	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Not applicable	Do not know

26. It was easy to obtain a supply of medications from the local or regular pharmacist after discharge							
27. The General Practitioner (or primary care provider) knew if any medications were changed during hospital stay							
28. The local or regular pharmacist knew if any medications changed at discharge							
29. The residential aged care facility (or long-term care facility) staff knew if any medications changed at discharge							

30. Beyond what the hospital staff had provided, I obtained further information on medication management from (more than one answer is possible):

1. Online websites
2. General Practitioner (or primary care provider)
3. Local/regular pharmacist
4. Residential aged care facility (or long-term care facility) staff
5. Hospital pharmacist
6. I didn't seek or obtain any further information
7. Other (please specify)