Hospitalization and Alzheimer’s: A Difficult Mix

Michael Splaine
ADI 2015
Perth, Australia
Disclosures
Michael Splaine/Splaine Consulting

Consulting Agreements as of 4/1/2015
☐ Alzheimer’s Disease International
☐ Eli Lilly
☐ Bayer A.G. (non-U.S.)
☐ Alzheimer’s Association (US) Healthy Brain Initiative
☐ Consumer Voice, Elder Justice Action SC
☐ National Center on Elder Abuse
☐ Alzheimer’s Association Georgia
☐ Arthritis Foundation (US)
☐ Owner, Cognitive Solutions LLC and Recruitment partners LLC
Conflict of Interest

• None of the views represented here are those of my clients nor have they had any control or input into this presentation.
Objectives

• Identify actionable intelligence about AD and hospitalization
• Strong focus on key steps in the hospital processes that could improve outcomes
• Examples of actions from national Alzheimer plans
People with ADRD don’t just have ADRD

75% have at least one additional chronic disease
Health system consequences

![Bar chart showing health system consequences with and without Alzheimer's. The conditions include Heart Disease, Diabetes, Heart Failure, and COPD. The costs are compared for both scenarios.](image)

Alzheimer's Association Facts and Figures, 2011

2
Labeling in hospitals

- Combative
- Non-adherent
- Frequent flier (in emergency departments)
- Crazy

- Delirium—this one is important!
Numbers don’t add up

- 1/9 over age 65 have ADRD
- 1/2 hospital customers are 60 or older
  - A problem that units cannot solve
  - Complicated by poor overall diagnostic rates
Thinking About Thinking™ Pillars

- Admissions
- Care
- Discharge
- Administration
- Community Interface
Hospitalization and dementia: pressure points

• Admission
• During the stay
• Discharge
Admission

Medical Historian impaired
Confusion and acting out
Inability to express basic needs
During the stay

• Negotiating treatment
• Nutrition and hydration
• Accommodation for family carers
Discharge

• Family capacity for follow on care
• Handoff to General Practitioner? Family?
• Community resources
Initiatives from Alzheimer plans

• Consumer pressure
• Environment change
• Dementia leaders
• Assessment in Emergency department
• Mental health consultation teams
• Partnerships with community agencies
• Training for all staff
Contact information

• mikesplaine@verizon.net