A dementia friendly ward: The impact of environment changes on the care nurses provide for patients with dementia

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Aim

• To explore the impact of dementia friendly environment ward changes for nurses caring for patients with dementia
Background
Environment changes

- Reduction in 'care burden' of dementia for staff (Andrews 2013)
- Four elderly care wards
  - Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, UK
Other initiatives
Methods

• Focus groups
  – HCAs and staff nurses

• Thematic analysis
  – Read re-read transcripts
  – Codes developed
  – Codes developed into themes
  – Themes re-examined
  – Naming of themes
  – Meaning within and across themes
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<tr>
<th>FG</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Roles</th>
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<td>HCA (3), Apprentice HCA (1)</td>
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<td>HCA (2), Staff nurse (2)</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>HCA (2), Staff nurse (3)</td>
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Emergent Themes

• Person-centred care is more important

• Takes time to change nursing culture

• Lack of understanding
Person-centred care is more important

• “Even though they have spent all this money and changed the environment, each patient is an individual with individual needs and changes to the environment have not changed that.”
Takes time to change nursing culture

“It’s has helped, because with the old nursing station nurses used to gather at the nursing station, but now we have small tables in every bay, so it has helped the nurses to write and see their patients. Rather, than all nurses staying behind the nurses station…”
Lack of understanding

“I think relatives think it is great because they don’t actually know how useless it is, they don’t have a clue it makes practically no difference for staff or patients”
Discussion

• Person-centred care a priority over environment changes
• Need for a cultural change to embrace a different approach to caring
• Support staff who are reluctant to understand changes
Conclusion

• Removal of window transfers
• Continued training and education
• Improved communication between manager and staff

‘A non-hospital environment’
Thank you