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**Dementia UK's solution to the rise in hospital admissions for people with dementia**

Figures for a new report<sup>1</sup> show that a quarter of hospital beds are now occupied by people with dementia as emergency admissions for dementia patients rise by 12%.

**Dementia UK** is a national charity committed to improving dementia care for people with dementia and greater support for family carers.

The charity is pioneering a specialist nursing approach to provide support for family carers and people with dementia to live well in the community and reduce the number of people with dementia being admitted to hospital.

**Admiral Nurses** are mental health nurses who specialise in dementia and have skills and knowledge to impart to family carers. Their aim is to enable families to understand the impact of dementia, manage everyday life in the best way possible, be supported with decisions as the condition progresses and plan for the future in a positive way.

The support provided by Admiral Nurses can stop family carers breaking down under the stress of caring and reduce the number of hospital admissions for people with dementia.

**Dementia UK** works in partnership with NHS providers and commissioners, social care authorities and voluntary sector organisations to promote and develop new Admiral Nursing services. However there are only around 85 Admiral Nurses around England and there has never been a greater need for this service.

Barbara Stephens, CEO of **Dementia UK**, says:

*"Admiral Nurses provide a life raft for family carers. Without their support, many family carer situations would be completely unmanageable and would simply break down. This in turn will place added pressure on health and social care services.*

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<sup>1</sup> Alzheimer's Society and MHP Health Mandate Report, *Common and complex: Commissioning effective dementia services in the new world*, December 2011

*We call on the Department of Health and the government to commit to supporting this vital service.”*

**Notes to the Editor:**

1. Dementia UK is a national charity that is committed to supporting families affected by dementia. It provides and supports Admiral Nurses, Admiral Nursing DIRECT, Uniting Carers – a national network of carers of people with dementia – and provides accredited and affordable training via Dementia UK Training. All initial enquiries to 020 7874 7200

[www.dementiauk.org](http://www.dementiauk.org)

2. The national helpline and email service Admiral Nursing DIRECT is provided by experienced and specialist Admiral Nurses and is for family and professional carers, people with dementia and those worried about their memory. Call 0845 257 9406 or email [direct@dementiauk.org](mailto:direct@dementiauk.org)

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