

Enhanced nurses in the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme: Admiral Nurses in primary care

Admiral Nurses are specialist nurses who are able to work at an enhanced level of practice to support people living with dementia and their family carers.

Admiral Nurse services within primary care operate in a multidisciplinary way to provide high quality, integrated support from peri- to post-diagnosis. Their direct work with families, combined with their guidance and supporting best practice interventions, allows them to deliver a system-wide approach to improve dementia care within primary care networks.

The benefits of Admiral Nurses in primary care include:

- improving the rates, speed and process of dementia diagnosis
- reducing pressure on GP time
- reducing admissions into acute/ long-term care
- improving coordination of care
- supporting and empowering carers in their caring role

Including Admiral Nurses in primary care offers an approach that can reduce the current fragmentation in services that impacts families affected by dementia, and improve their experience and health outcomes.

Admiral Nurse services:

- play a key role in enabling an early diagnosis
- provide specialist guidance to colleagues regarding families they are supporting within the primary care setting
- provide holistic and relationship-centred care to families facing high levels of complexity related to dementia
- provide education to families on dementia
- serve as a point of education or consultation for primary care staff who have regular



- contact with people at risk of dementia
- support best practice by sharing skills and knowledge with other health and social care professionals

Potential outcomes for primary care networks that employ Admiral Nurses

Professionals working in primary care have reported that Admiral Nurse services can:

- improve care and quality of life for families
- support advance care planning – in one service, all people living with dementia were offered advance care planning, and 88% had their preferred place of care recorded
- ensure regular reviews – in one service 100% of people with dementia on the Admiral Nurse caseload were reviewed every four months

“It has been brilliant to have a real expert on dementia care available in the community: someone with the skills, knowledge and experience to provide excellent support for individuals and families, and also to demonstrate best practice to other professionals in the community.”

- GP with Admiral Nurse post in place

- enable families to be included in decisions about care
- reduce care home placements
- reduce A&E visits and unplanned hospital admissions
- help avoid crisis points
- increase their understanding of dementia
- improve case management/coordination
- increase their confidence in assessing need

Carers accessing an Admiral Nurse in a primary care setting have reported that the nurse:

- improved their ability to take better care of the person they look after
- improved their ability to influence or make important decisions about the care of the person they look after
- increased their confidence in their ability to take better care of themselves
- reduced the number of GP appointments they needed for themselves and the person with dementia

Why work with Dementia UK?

Admiral Nurse services are developed in collaboration with Dementia UK and are tailored to meet local need.

The benefits of collaborating with Dementia UK are far-reaching and include:

- support with service development and design, with clinical input and ongoing account management
- support in developing specialist dementia nurses who are passionate about dementia care
- extensive continuing professional and practice development for the Admiral Nurse
- access to service monitoring and evaluation guidance tools for your Admiral Nurse
- use of the widely recognised model of Admiral Nursing



Case study

“Following the diagnosis, we were just left floundering. I was left to deal with it 24/7 entirely alone and I was struggling to cope.

“[My partner] was getting increasingly anxious, wanting to make phone calls to make people take him to what he calls ‘home’, which we think must be where he grew up. My daughter-in-law phoned the GP and said, ‘My father-in-law is very anxious and we really need him to be seen,’ and I got a call back from the receptionist to say that she knew about this wonderful Admiral Nurse service which, luckily for us, was attached to the surgery and that she would refer us.

“Immediately, I got this tremendous sense of relief. Two days later [the Admiral Nurse] phoned me and he came to visit a few days later. From that moment on, our lives changed just because we had so much support from him. It’s just been amazing.”

- Partner of a person living with dementia

We encourage primary care networks and integrated care boards interested in this model to contact businessdevelopment@dementiauk.org