

Abstract 1

Title: Implementing The Sensory Profile in nursing home targeting citizens diagnosed with dementia – a qualitative study of service provider’s perspective on implications for practice.

Special request for this presentation is to join either a work-shop or a poster presentation with the following theme: “Rehabilitation of citizens diagnosed with dementia”.

Authors: Maiken Bay Ravn and Kirsten Schultz Petersen, Department of Medicine and Health Technology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Aalborg University, Nils Jernes Vej 12, 9220 Aalborg East, Denmark.

Corresponding author: E-mail: ksp@hst.aau.dk Telephone: +4593562220. The study is funded by The municipality of Aalborg in collaboration with Aalborg University.

Background: Dementia is associated with increasing behavioral, psychological and cognitive changes and affects the ability to perceive and process sensory information. Sensory stimulation contains a large variation of tools with the overall aim to stimulate the patient’s senses in order to increase alertness, control behavior, reduce agitation and help patient feel safe. In this study implementation of The Sensory Profile in nursing homes is explored. The aim of the study is to investigate the service provider’s perspective on the implementation of The Sensory Profile in municipal nursing homes targeting citizens diagnosed with dementia, and explore how providers experience its use and if the profile can help reduce behavioral challenges and better the work environment.

Theoretical frame and method: A qualitative research design was chosen, including participant observation, informal conversations and individual interview of service providers at nursing homes with the minimum of 3 months experience of using the profile in their daily practice. Four employees (age 36 till 63) from four different nursing homes were included in the study. The data collection were inspired by James Spradley’s approach to participant observation, and planned in phases: a descriptive, focused and a selective phase. During informal and formal interviews focus was on experiences and meaning in daily work. Content analysis inspired by Margit Scheier are used to identify themes of importance derived from the field notes and the transcribed interviews.

Results: Three preliminary themes have been identified in the service providers perspective on the use of Sensory Profile in their daily work at the nursing homes: 1) It is a helpful tool to understand and manage everyday challenges 2) it takes time to use and requires adjustments and education 3) it is a challenge to hand over information to colleagues. The final results will be presented at the conference.

Conclusion: Sensory Profile is a relevant and useful tool to use when experiencing behavioral challenges among citizens with dementia, but it requires time, adjustment and education if it is to be implemented in nursing homes.

Implications: The study emphasizes the need for provider education and future adjustment of The Sensory Profile to better target citizens diagnosed with a dementia.

Key words: dementia, behavioral changes, sensory stimulation, service providers

Key references:

M Scheier (2012) *Qualitative Content Analysis*. SAGE Publications.

J Spradley (1978) *Participant Observation*. Thomson Learning.