# Function and Behavior Focused Care for Nursing Home Residents with Dementia

https://neurodegenerationresearch.eu/survey/function-and-behavior-focused-care-for-nursing-home-residents-with-dementia/

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Contact information of lead PI Country

USA

Title of project or programme

Function and Behavior Focused Care for Nursing Home Residents with Dementia

#### Source of funding information

NIH (NIA)

Total sum awarded (Euro)

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Start date of award

30/09/2013

Total duration of award in years

4

The project/programme is most relevant to:

Alzheimer's disease & other dementias

Keywords

Acquired Cognitive Impairment... Aging... Alzheimer's Disease... Alzheimer's Disease including Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias (AD/ADRD)... Behavioral and Social Science... Brain Disorders... Caregiving Research... Clinical Research... Clinical Research - Extramural... Dementia... Health Services... Neurodegenerative... Neurosciences... Physical Activity... Prevention... Rehabilitation

### **Research Abstract**

DESCRIPTION (provided by applicant): The care of nursing home residents with moderate to severe cognitive impairment has traditionally followed a custodial approach where nursing staff focus on minimizing behavioral problems and perform necessary functional tasks for these individuals during care activities. While unintended, resistance to care, functional decline, medical complications of immobility, and overuse of psychotropic medications and adverse events, such as falls, are more likely to occur with custodial care practices. Therefore, it is critical to implement non-pharmacological interventions to minimize behavioral disturbance, optimize physical function, and decrease the risk of adverse events among nursing residents with moderate to severe cognitive impairement. To address these challenges, the proposed study will test the effectiveness of the Function and Behavior Focused Care for the Cognitively Impaired (FBFC-CI) Intervention. FBFC-CI is based on a socioecological model and is designed to change nursing staff behavior by motivating and teaching them skills to decrease behavioral symptoms and optimize function and physical activity among nursing home residents with dementia. The aims of this study are to test the impact of FBFC-CI on both behavioral and functional outcomes of residents with moderate to severe cognitive impairment and explore the adoption of the intervention at the facility level. Specifically, we will implement FBFC-CI in a cluster randomized trial of 480 residents in twelve nursing homes (40 residents per nursing home) to accomplish the following aims: Aim 1. Evaluate the effectiveness of FBFC-CI on behavioral symptoms (depression, resistance to care, agitation), psychotropic medication use, function (ADLs, performance), and physical activity (survey, actigraphy) of residents; Aim 2. Evaluate the impact of FBFC-CI on adverse events (falls, emergency room admissions and hospitalizations); and Aim 3. Demonstrate staff adoption and maintenance of use of FBFC approaches. Residents will have moderate to severe cognitive impairment (MMSE d 15) and data will be collected at baseline, 4, and 12 months. This study will be a critical next step in delineating how to change care approaches provided to residents with moderate to severe dementia so as to decrease behavioral symptoms, optimize function and physical activity and decrease inappropriate psychotropic medication use and adverse event experienced by these individuals.

## Lay Summary

PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE: This study will address the effectiveness of Function and Behavior Focused Care for the Cognitively Impaired (FBFC-CI). Function and Behavior Focused Care is an approach to care in which nurses decrease agitation and resistance to care by acknowledging the remaining functional and physical capabilities of nursing home residents with dementia and engaging them in physical activity (bathing, dressing, walking, simple exercise, range of motion) and integrating physical activity into all care interactions. Our goal in this wor is to establish a practical and effective way to decrease behavioral symptoms, such as depression, resistance to care and agitation, optimize function and physical activity, prevent premature disability, decrease inappropriate use of psychotropic medications, and prevent adverse events, such as falls and hospitalizations.

## Further information available at:

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