

Title	Demonstrate knowledge of dementia		
Level	4	Credits	4

Purpose	<p>People credited with this standard can describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the physiology of dementia; • how the brain changes that accompany dementia can affect a person’s control over how they think and what they do; • how external factors can influence behaviour in a person living with dementia.
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Classification	Health, Disability, and Aged Support > Older Persons' Health and Wellbeing
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 Scope of practice
 People awarded credit for this unit standard are competent to provide support under the guidance and delegation of a health professional registered with an Authority appointed under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003. The registered health professional must be appointed to deliver health services according to a defined scope of practice which includes support for people living with dementia.
- 2 Definition
Dementia refers to a progressive and degenerative condition of the brain caused by brain disease or injury and marked by memory disorders, personality changes, and impaired reasoning.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Describe the physiology of dementia.

Performance criteria

1.1 Changes to the brain resulting from dementia are described.

Range brain stem and spinal cord; neurons and synapses; the hippocampus, amyloid plaques and tau tangles.

1.2 Dementia is distinguished from delirium and depression.

Range two differences between delirium and dementia;
two differences between dementia and depression;
two differences between delirium and depression.

1.3 Types of dementia are described.

Range three of – Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, Lewy body dementia, any subtype of frontotemporal dementia (eg primary progressive aphasia, semantic dementia, progressive agrammatic aphasia, or movement disorders).

1.4 The stages of dementia are described.

Range early, mid, advanced.

Outcome 2

Describe how the brain changes that accompany dementia can affect a person's control over how they think and what they do.

Performance criteria

2.1 The ways in which the brain changes that accompany dementia can affect a person's control over how they think and what they do are described.

Range four examples;
common effects may include but are not limited to – emotional patterns, self-awareness level, disinhibitions, gathering or searching for familiar or wanted items, sexuality, late-day confusion, difficulty sequencing, hallucinations, mobility routines.

Outcome 3

Describe how external factors can influence behaviour in a person living with dementia.

Performance criteria

3.1 The ways that external factors can influence behaviour in a person living with dementia are described.

Range six factors;
factors may include but are not limited to – anxiety, challenges to self-esteem and dignity, communication problems, cultural factors, dealing with loss and grief, delirium, environment, infection, life experiences, medication, physical needs, pre-morbid personality, sensory issues, service limitations.

Planned review date	31 December 2026
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	20 March 2008	31 December 2012
Revision	2	21 January 2011	31 December 2012
Revision	3	21 July 2011	31 December 2017
Revision	4	16 February 2012	31 December 2017
Review	5	18 June 2015	31 December 2017
Review	6	19 November 2015	31 December 2023
Review	7	27 May 2021	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0024
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact Careerforce info@careerforce.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.