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Dementia healthcare and service systems – a mapping system tested in nine Swedish municipalities

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2018

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Lethin, C., Giertz, L., Vingare, E.-L., & Rahm Hallberg, I. (2018). *Dementia healthcare and service systems – a mapping system tested in nine Swedish municipalities*. Poster session presented at The Nordic Conference in Nursing Research i Oslo , Oslo, Norway.

Total number of authors:

4

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Dementia healthcare and service systems

- a mapping system tested in nine Swedish municipalities

Connie Lethin, PhD, University Lecturer, Registered Nurse

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Conclusion

The mapping system

- was suitable for a municipality context once adapted
- enables professionals and policy makers to reveal strengths and weaknesses in the health care and social service system
- enables professionals to be proactive and communicate available care and service
- revealed where in the chain of care, dementia-specific education for professionals needs to be developed

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Introduction

In dementia care, it is crucial that the chain of care is adapted to the needs of people with dementia and their informal caregivers throughout the course of the disease. Assessing the existing dementia care system with regard to facilities, availability and utilization may provide useful information, ensuring that professional dementia care and service system meets the needs of patients and relatives from disease onset to end-of-life.

Aims

To further develop and test a mapping system locally, regarding dementia care and to compare participating municipalities regarding availability and utilization of four care categories: *Screening, the diagnostic procedures and treatment; Outpatient care facilities; Institutional care* and *Palliative care*, as well as the professional providers' educational level.

	Course of the dementia disease (Moise et al., 2004)			
	Care providers			
	(A=Availability, U=Utilization, P=Provider/s)			
	Diagnose/Early stage	Intermediate stage	Late stage	End of life stage
Care and support provided				
Screening, the diagnostic procedures and treatment	A: U: P:	A: U: P:	A: U: P:	A: U: P:
Outpatient care facilities	A: U: P:	A: U: P:	A: U: P:	A: U: P:
Institutional care	A: U: P:	A: U: P:	A: U: P:	A: U: P:
Palliative care	A: U: P:	A: U: P:	A: U: P:	A: U: P:

Method

This cross-sectional study was conducted in April through May 2015. Data was derived from the health care and social service systems in nine rural and urban municipalities in two counties in Sweden.

Moise P, Schwarzing M, Um MY. (2004). Dementia Care in 9 OECD Countries: A Comparative Analysis. OECD Health Working Papers 2004. No. 13.

Results

For further development of the mapping system and to apply it to a local context and national guidelines and laws regulating health care and the social service system, four care activities were added and three were removed. Five care activities were refined in the description and subdivided to make ten care activities. The mapping system therefore covered 56 care activities. The mapping system was found to be reliable with minor adaptation to the context.

Availability and utilization of care activities concerning *screening, the diagnostic procedures and treatment* was higher compared with availability and utilization of *outpatient care facilities, institutional care* and *palliative care*. The educational level of professionals working in screening, the diagnostic procedures and treatment was generally higher.

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