

Depending on their level of cognition, some of our patients in the ward have agreed to come into hospital. Some, however, have been compulsorily admitted under Mental Health Act. Most patients are subject to the Deprivation of Liberty (DoLs) legislation.

Our Team

We have a MDT approach to care and assessment.

The ward team is made up of various health professionals skilled in the care and treatment of patients with Dementia.

Our team consists of Consultant Psychiatrists, Medical team, Nursing team, occupational Therapists and physiotherapy therapists; each bringing specialist skills and training to the ward team. We are able to refer to any services that may be required for our patients in order to support their care needs from Dieticians, Speech and Language therapists, social workers etc. We are supported by clerical and hotel services staff.

We actively encourage students to our unit to encourage and promote learning in Dementia Care.



Edgcumbe is a specialist mental health unit providing short term assessment and care for people suffering from organic mental health problems.



Typically these are dementia type problems, e.g. Alzheimer's Disease and Vascular Dementia that causes progressive decline in cognition, memory, thinking, language, understanding, judgment and in social skills.

This type of illness is generally associated with older people but can also be experienced by younger people. Edgcumbe provides an 'ageless service' and will offer support to people regardless of age.

We offer assessment and care when people are at an acute and vulnerable stage of their illness. Edgcumbe is part of the Memory Service Pathway.

Dementia is associated with complex needs and especially in later stages, high levels of dependency and morbidity. Care needs challenge the skills, capacity of carers and available services as the condition progresses. People with dementia can present with complex problems, often unpredictable with challenging behaviors such as violence, aggression and extreme agitation.

- 850 000 people (2015) are living with dementia in England and the number is expected to grow to over 1 million by 2025
- People are living longer, and with the higher incidence of Dementia in the latter years of life!
- Dementia is becoming a higher priority!



Edgcumbe Dementia Assessment Unit



We aspire to excellence in dementia care

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Our Unit

Everybody's journey through illness is individual, The unit recognizes this and care is planned accordingly on an individual basis.

We provide skilled care and treatment for people whilst assessing their current skills and abilities, and identifying possible future care needs.

We also provide advice and support to relatives, carers and liaise with other agencies as required, to meet patients' needs and wishes.

We offer a carers group once a week on a Thursday to offer support, information and guidance.

We have a multi-disciplinary approach to care in our unit; we will support people and their families to achieve their individualized care requirements.

We are committed to treating everyone; patients, relatives and other professionals with respect and dignity at all times. We assess the current and future needs of our patients.

Edgcumbe unit consists of 10 single bedrooms arranged in single sex corridors.

We Support those who are returning home

We arrange and support those moving into residential or Nursing Care

We are able to provide support to family and carers at time of crisis and beyond



We are also able to provide end of life care when needed.

Patients are admitted to the ward for a period of assessment, which can be crisis or planned admissions from home/nursing home or acute hospital.

The primary aim of the admission will be to complete an assessment of their mental and physical health, their current needs and to identify what might be needed in the future.

It might also include reestablishing them if their behaviors have changed.

We are also involved in the reviewing of their current medication regime.



Carers and relatives are encouraged to be fully involved in care planning and decision making.

The unit has an assessment period that starts on the day after admission. This looks at how patients can accomplish everyday tasks, for example: washing or dressing, together with more specialist tests to assess the level of their memory, cognitive abilities and understanding.



The length of time our patients stay on the ward will be determined by the assessment, their individual care needs and subsequent decisions that are made.

We try to encourage patients to remain as independent and self-caring as their illness allows Treatment includes a full range of medical and therapeutic interventions, in order to support individual care planning both psychiatric and physical.